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OPINION METER

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the use of marijuana
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INSIDE



New Investor

IP&E has sold a 25-percent stake in the company to one of Japan's largest trading companies.

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Anti-Obama

Resurgent Republicans rally behind an agenda based on unwavering opposition to the Obama White House.

NATION...Page 14



MTV Europe

Lady Gaga wins three prizes at this year's MTV Europe Music Awards.

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Woman who arranged sham marriage gets 11-month probation . PAGE 3
Oversight hearing on retirement benefits of Tinian, Rota employees. PAGE 5

OIA forum to focus on smoothing out rough edges of federalization

» **Fitial greets Babauta upon his arrival at the Saipan airport**

Babauta



THERE GOES ANOTHER TREE

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

An employee of Resources Management International Corp. uses a chainsaw to cut the smaller branches of a giant acacia tree right after a huge branch was chopped down, across the road from the U.S. Post Office in Chalan Kanoa yesterday afternoon. RMIC, the contractor for the federally funded Leadership Memorial Courtyard or the Kios-ku project, said they needed to chop down the branches to give way to a solar panel and lamp post.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial welcomed U.S. Interior Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta at the Saipan airport yesterday afternoon, in time for the Office of Insular Affairs' hosting of today's forum on economic and labor development.

Babauta and Fitial will be delivering remarks in today's invitation-only forum, to be held at the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan from 8am to 4pm.

The forum, among other things, will tackle the challenges for CNMI and

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TAXPAYERS STILL AWAITING CHECKS

Rebate trust account short by \$2 million

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Many taxpayers have yet to receive their rebate checks four months since the Department of Finance mailed the first round of checks, and this is because the rebate trust account is short by an estimated \$2 million.

Other taxpayers' tax filings may also be deficient and need to be corrected, and this could be the cause of delays for some residents.

See REBATE on Page 4

DUE TO UNPAID BILLS

Medical referral program still suspended

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

pended as of yesterday due to the government's continuing failure to pay its obligation to travel agencies.

Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez confirmed this with the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, saying that

Medical Referral personnel are still working with the Finance Department on securing the payment for these vendors.

"As of this morning, that's the information I got on the status of the pro-

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3rd Raffle Draw: December 1, 2010

Local

Borja, Mobel top Hopwood's Education Day awardees

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

2010 EDUCATION NOMINEES

Hopwood Junior High School has named Victorino Borja and Clarissa Mobel as its nominees for this year's Education Day awards, along with five other outstanding personnel who will vie for the overall titles this month.

Borja, recipient of Hopwood's Teacher of the Year award, has been a teacher for over three years now. He was recognized for his dedication to the profession, leadership skills, and his ability to foster excellence and improve student learning.

Borja was described as a great example to his colleagues by continuously seeking knowledge to improve his skill as a teacher.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Recipients of this year's Education Day awards for Hopwood Junior High School pose with their school administrators. Top, from left, are principal Jonas Barcina, Natalie Hill, Clarissa Mobel and Purisimo Raganot. Bottom, from left, are Victorino Borja, Francisco Dela Cruz, and Josiah Kyonka.

Borja currently holds a bachelor's degree in education from the Northern Marianas College along with a master's degree in education from Framingham State University. His students de-

scribe him as a very hardworking and responsible teacher.

Mobel was adjudged Hopwood's teacher aide of the year nominee. She has been serving the school's Troops-to-Teacher

program for more than three years. When asked what motivates her to go to work every day, Mobel pointed at her students. She describes herself as hardworking, mainly due to her military background. She also gives credit to her sixth grade teacher Monica Huff for influencing her to work in education.

Purisimo Raganot is this year's recipient of the support staff/maintenance award. Raganot joined the Public School System in 1992, doing carpentry, plumbing, and electrical work. He is considered an asset to the school for the past 18 years. For many months, Raganot singlehandedly kept the school campus of 1,300 students clean. He is also known for his speed, work ethic, and thoroughness—qualities that did not change when Hopwood gained a second custodian.

Francisco Dela Cruz was named administrative staff of the year. He has been with PSS for over 24 years, working first as librarian aide for Marianas High School. For several years, Dela Cruz worked for the office of the Associate Commissioner for Curriculum and Instruction, then relocated to the office of the Commissioner of Education under William Torres. In 2001, he transferred to Hopwood Junior High School where he has served as administrative officer for both the main campus and the Linala Malawasch Academy over the years. He plays an adaptable role when it comes to helping run the school.

Jonas Barcina, Hopwood's principal, was adjudged as this

See BORJA on Next Page



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

Rota World War II Relics



Numerous relics from World War II await curious visitors to the island of Rota, including the 100+ athletes anticipated for this Saturday's (Nov. 13) **17th Annual Rota Blue Triathlon**.

The well-known 14 cm Japanese cannon pictured above overlooks Sasanaya Bay and Wedding Cake Mountain in the southern part of the island and can't be missed when driving by. Near by is a now empty casemate for a twin cannon, and pillboxes can still be seen on Rota beaches. Numerous tombs and monuments from the war also dot the landscape, reminding visitors of the historic ties between the island and Japan, which possessed the island until the end of World War II.

In Fiscal Year 2009, the island of Rota received 7,348 visitors, largely from Japan. Saturday's triathlon is anticipated to be another big attraction for international visitors this year, with over 100 athletes anticipated from Japan, alone.

The next time you are in Rota, take time to appreciate these reminders of the island's rich history.



This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

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Woman who arranged sham marriage gets 11-month probation

Aging director apologizes to erring man'amko

» Some congregates express frustration

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Office on Aging director Rose Mondala apologized yesterday to former Saipan Seniors Advisory Council president Felix Flawau, drawing mostly intense reactions from congregates who witnessed the apology.

Mondala made the apology yesterday in the presence of some congregates at the Aging Center.

"I want this problem fixed once and for all. ... I made a mistake and I want to apologize to Mr. Flawau for making that mistake," said Mondala, referring to Flawau's suspension.

The council had earlier recommended that Flawau be suspended for a month beginning Oct. 27—with Mondala's concurrence—for his "outburst" at the dining room where he "repeatedly slapped the table extremely hard."

Saipan Tribune learned that the incident left some congregates, particularly those with serious heart conditions, distressed and anxious for their medications.

Flawau had then sought the intervention of Department of Community and Cultural Affairs

tolerated to ensure peace and tranquility for our senior citizens," added Sorroza.

She said the action taken by the Aging director on Flawau shows that congregates can exhibit bad behavior and get away with it.

Mila Garin, who was among the congregates shaken up by the incident, said she was disappointed with Mondala's action.

"I leave it all up to God. He is the only one who can protect us from what Flawau can do," she said.

"Clients who were severely shaken up by Mr. Flawau's violent tantrum are extremely distressed about the fact that you simply spat on their faces by pardoning Mr. Flawau for what he had done," wrote council president Teresita Sorroza.

According to Sorroza, congregates who misbehave or break rules at the Aging Center have been suspended in the past so they become aware of their mistakes and stop them from repeating their erring ways and prevent further upsets at the center.

"Rules are designed to keep order here in the center so that actions like what Mr. Flawau has done repeatedly will not be

"With her position, she is never wrong; she will always be right," he said.

vice principal of curriculum and instruction during the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years.

She graduated from NMC with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and from George Mason University with a master's degree in History. When asked who was influential in her life as an educator, Hill explained how Ms. Sharlene Crisostomo had been a great role model and mentor while she was student teaching.

Josiah Kyonka is Hopwood's counselor of the year awardee.

He is working on his second year at Hopwood's counseling office. He grew up in St. Louis, Missouri. He moved to Oklahoma to attend Southern Nazarene University, where he earned his bachelor's degree in Psychology and Theology.

BORJA

From Page 2

year's principal awardee. He is a man with many talents and experience.

Born on Rota with 12 siblings, Barcinas is described as a strong and dynamic leader who has worked very hard at becoming a well-rounded principal. He holds a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and a master's in Counseling from the University of Guam. Barcinas also holds a master's in Educational Leadership and Supervision from San Diego State University and is currently working on his doctoral degree with Argosy University of Hawaii. With 12 years teaching experience in elementary and secondary levels, Barcinas relates well with his teachers and staff and has a good understanding of their needs. Barcinas was nominated for the CNMI National Teacher of the Year award in 1999. Before coming to Hopwood Barcinas was a principal in Dandan Elementary School for 10 years. He is a current member of the U.S. Army Reserve, is an active member in his community, and is serving his second year as principal at Hopwood.

Named vice principal of the year was Natalie Hill, who has been at Hopwood for five years. She spent her first three years working in the classroom as a seventh grade geography teacher before taking on the position of

The federal court handed down yesterday an 11-month probation sentence on a woman who arranged a sham marriage between an alien worker and a U.S. citizen woman.

Maria Calipay Camacho pleaded guilty for her role as a conspirator in the marriage scheme as part of a plea agreement.

Besides a \$100 special assessment fee, Camacho was also required to not commit any federal, state, or local crimes; not possess a firearm or other dangerous weapon; and not use or possess an illegal controlled substance.

Camacho was present at yes-

terday's hearing with counsel, Robert Torres, via videoconference from Guam.

Torres had recommended a sentence of six months probation and conditions, while assistant U.S. attorney Kirk Schuler asked for a sentence of two years probation and conditions.

Camacho arranged the fraudulent marriage between Crisanto Maderal Olivos, a Filipino, and a U.S. citizen woman. The marriage happened on Sept. 14, 2001.

A month later, Olivos applied for a U.S. permanent resident card or "green card" with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigra-

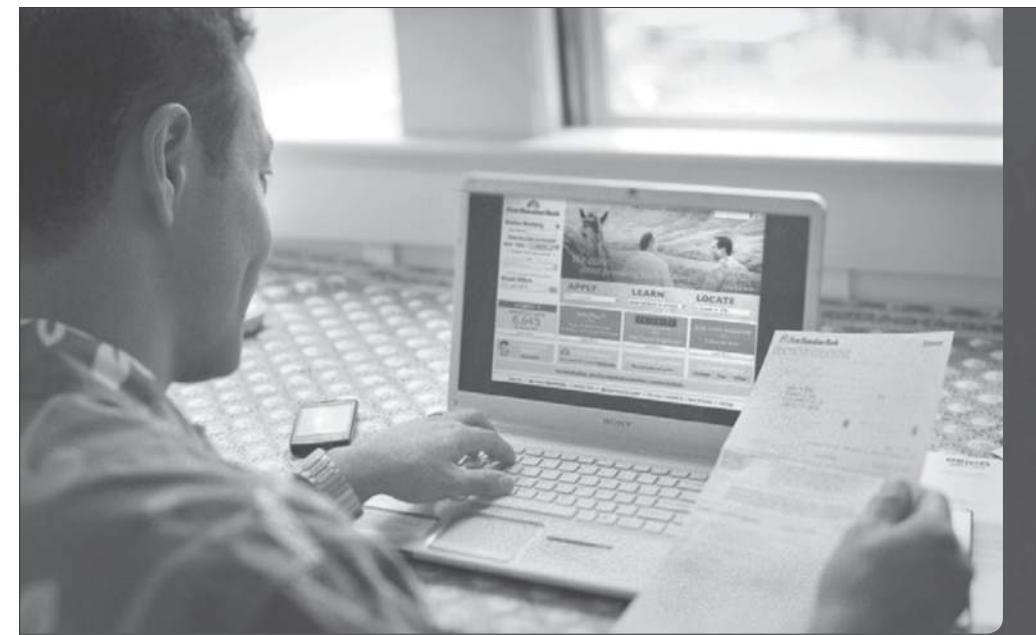
tion Services, based on his alleged marriage.

Camacho assisted Olivos in applying for his green card. She allegedly paid the woman to marry Olivos.

Olivos received his "green card" on Jan. 4, 2007.

Olivos also pleaded guilty to immigration document fraud. On April 16, 2010, the federal court sentenced him to two years of probation with conditions that allow for his self-deportation.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge Mark W. Bennett presided over the case yesterday. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



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OAG: DPS improperly promoted only 1 officer in 11-year period

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General has pointed out that only one police officer has been improperly promoted over an 11-year period and that the Department of Public Safety took corrective action by demoting the officer.

Assistant attorney general Meaghan Hassel Shearer, counsel for DPS, added that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has already issued a directive for DPS to follow the

Personnel Service System Rules and Regulations and Civil Services Act.

The petition filed by police Sgt. James C. Deleon Guerrero is therefore moot and should be dismissed, according to Shearer in the DPS' motion for summary judgment.

Deleon Guerrero sued DPS to protest alleged discrimination in its promotion and hiring practices. Twenty-six other officers joined in his petition.

Shearer said DPS has remedied the petitioners' grievance by demoting Officer

Alfred Celes who was improperly promoted and by conducting a desk audit.

The government lawyer said that Fitial had issued a directive commanding DPS not to make any further improper promotions.

"These actions render the petition for judicial review moot," she said, adding that the court should dismiss the petition.

The petitioners, through counsel Robert T. Torres, argued, however, that DPS' insistence that the desk audit and Fitial's directive have solved all prob-

lems "is misplaced."

Torres said that, contrary to the DPS' insistence that the Celes incident was an isolated case, a March 26, 2010 memorandum issued by the Office of Management and Budget to DPS Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela "exposes the department's contemplation and plan for additional promotions and re-allocations" in fiscal year 2011.

Torres said the memorandum states

Stanley: 2nd CUC privatization bill may be vetoed too if...

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) said yesterday that his second bill restoring the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s procurement authority and pave the way for its privatization may be vetoed again if the Senate restores the same provisions that CUC wanted removed in the first place.

"It will all be up to the Senate," he said, referring to his House Bill 17-114, which is now with the Senate.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial vetoed on Nov. 3 Torres' first bill of the same nature, H.B. 17-80, Senate Substitute 1, which amends the CUC privatization law, Public Law 16-17.

HB 17-80 gives CUC the flexibility needed to partner with the private sector to provide reliable service at efficient rates but the Senate substitute of the House bill put back the same provisions that CUC wanted to be deleted.

Torres said he expected the governor to veto his first bill due to the Senate amendment, so he introduced a second bill of the same nature.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), during deliberation on the second bill, H.B. 17-114, said it makes no sense for the House to pass the same bill will

provisions that the Senate will likely amend again.

The Senate may hold its next session next week.

Fitial, in vetoing the first bill, cited problems with the provisions that the Senate inserted, including Sections 3(a) which is on bids only, and Section 3(c) on private sector assistance agreements.

The governor also cited Section

3(g), requiring CUC to appoint a five-member independent review panel to evaluate bids that Fitial said "creates another bureaucratic layer which is unnecessary as CUC is already subject to CPUC [Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission] review."

Fitial said Section 3(f) may discourage outside CNMI participation because of the prequalification requirement.

Probable cause found to charge suspected Tinian 'ice' supplier

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman found probable cause yesterday to warrant the filing of charges against a suspected supplier of methamphetamine or "ice" on Tinian.

Wiseman found during yesterday's preliminary hearing that there is reason to believe that suspect Fu Zhu Lin may have committed the crimes of trafficking of a controlled substance, illegal possession of a controlled substance, and resisting arrest, arising from a buy-bust operation in San Jose, Tinian, on Oct. 29, 2010.

Members of the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force and other members of the Department of Public Safety's Criminal Investigation Bureau conducted the operation after investigation revealed that Lin was distributing "ice" out of the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

Officers allegedly managed to buy \$200 worth of "ice" from Lin, who works at the hotel. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

growth of the CNMI economy and the employment of U.S.-eligible workers.

OIA said this consultation will include representatives from the CNMI government and private sector stakeholders. It said through collaborative efforts, a technical assistance program can be designed to creatively address issues faced in the CNMI by employers and employees.

From 8am to 11am, the forum will be focused on economic development and diversification, while the afternoon session will be on employer needs for recruiting, hiring, training and retraining U.S. eligible workers. These workers include U.S. citizens, permanent residents and Freely Associated States citizens. The forum will include large and small group discussions.

Recession

The CNMI's current economic recession, which began in 2005, has yet to show signs of ending. The demise of the garment industry and the pullout of Japan Airlines, which at the time was bringing in the majority of tourists from Japan, were among the factors for this recession.

OIA said no other economy in the Pacific has had this kind of contraction in recent decades, with the possible exception of Nauru, which suffered a great deal of loss after it exhausted its phosphate deposits in the 1980s.

Adding to the toxic mix has been the uncertainty caused by the federal take-

over of CNMI immigration. A lack of regulations a year later is leaving employees and employers in the dark as to how to go about their business and employment in the CNMI.

Prayer vigil

This is Babauta's first visit to Saipan since April when he presented the Fitial administration with a copy of the Interior report to the U.S. Congress recommending long-term immigration status to foreign workers who have been in the CNMI for at least five years.

The Fitial administration is opposed to the Interior report, saying that Interior did not properly consult the CNMI governor or government about it.

In time for Babauta's Saipan visit, different religious groups and different workers group led by the United Workers Movement-NMI will hold at 6pm tonight a prayer vigil at the American Memorial Park in Garapan and formal launching of an online petition asking President Obama to protect the 16,000 legal aliens residing in the CNMI.

The petitioners are specifically seeking the granting of a parole-in-place status with authorization to seek employment and to allow them to qualify for employment-based visa applications "until such time as a more permanent status is provided" to them by the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. State Department, or the U.S. Labor Department.

that to effectuate the requested promotion of Police Capt. Aniceto Ogumoro to chief of police, OMB will reinstate his FTE (Full Time Employee) beginning FY 2011.

Torres said the memorandum further indicates that funding will be available in FY 2011 to promote Ogumoro to deputy DPS commissioner.

The memorandum, the lawyer said, exposes Fitial's directive for what it is: a useless piece of paper simply "requesting" DPS to honor the personnel policies it has repeatedly abandoned.

ing for their turn to receive their rebate and refund checks.

A refund is for tax that has been overpaid or incorrectly paid, and is returned to the taxpayer.

It is different from the rebate, which is for tax properly paid and is subsequently returned to the taxpayer under a rebate provision. Rebate checks of some \$5 million will be mailed out later.

"My husband has yet to receive his rebate check. We are hoping to get it so we could start shopping for Christmas gifts," said a mother of two, from Navy Hill.

On July 12 alone, Finance mailed out some 10,000 taxpayer refund checks totaling \$6.4 million, including their federal stimulus checks. At the time, the administration said some 9,000 more checks were being processed.

Despite this, the Fitial administration was able to release the first round of checks this year than in previous years.

Other taxpayers also have yet to receive their federal stimulus fund for tax year 2009.

"Is it legal for the CNMI govern-

ment to hold on to the federal stimulus fund?" a father of two from Fina Sisu asked yesterday.

emergencies, Camacho said the company may not be able to do so due to its limited resources.

Camacho said the company has been using its own resources in paying for the plane tickets of patients referred outside the CNMI.

"Definitely not. We love to help, but we already used our resources and even if it's emergency...it's a risk to our business," he explained.

Villagomez earlier said the travel ban has affected five to 10 medical referral cases in the first week—all for follow-up examinations.

Since four weeks ago, only one travel agency has allowed medical referral trips to Guam while a total ban was placed on trips to the Philippines and Honolulu. The two other travel agencies implemented a ban on all these destinations.

Medical Referral officer Ron Sablan was on leave yesterday when contacted by *Saipan Tribune*.

Acting Finance Secretary Connie Agluto was not available for comments when contacted yesterday.

The Department of Public Health spent \$16.3 million in referring medical cases to various medical facilities outside the Commonwealth in the last four fiscal years, ending in fiscal year 2009.

Fiscal year 2009 recorded the highest expenditure of \$7.4 million for 907 patients referred to other hospitals. This figure translates to over 50 percent increase from fiscal year 2008's expenses of \$4.4 million for 716 cases.

In fiscal year 2007, CHC noted 565 medical referral cases and spent \$1.5 million compared to \$2.8 million spent in fiscal year 2006 for 526 cases.

OIA

From Page 1

federal agencies working with the local government in identifying and implementing policies or programs that would enable the CNMI to make the federalization transition as smooth as possible.

Jeff Schorr, OIA field representative for the CNMI, and CNMI press secretary Angel Demapan separately confirmed Babauta's arrival yesterday.

"Governor Fitial was on hand at the airport to welcome and meet with Assistant Secretary Babauta," Demapan said.

Details of that meeting have yet to be known, but Fitial earlier said he would ask for more technical assistance grants from the Interior's OIA, among other things.

Consultation

The federal government took over CNMI immigration on Nov. 28, 2009 through U.S. Public Law 110-229, but almost a year later, the federal government has yet to issue the regulations on the transitional foreign worker and investor visa programs, causing uncertainty among businesses, workers, and the local government.

Section 702(e) of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act or the federalization law authorizes the U.S. Department of the Interior to provide technical assistance to aid the diversification and

MEDICAL

From Page 1

gram. The Medical Referral personnel are still working with Finance today and will report back to me," said Villagomez yesterday.

The medical referral program has been on hold since October after three travel agencies—Wings Travel, Pacific Sky, and World Tour and Travel—refused to process the airline tickets of medical referral patients until the government's obligation is paid in full.

As of last month, over \$180,000 was owed these travel agencies, according to Villagomez. The \$180,000 debt, he said, reflects over a month's delay of payment for each vendor.

As of yesterday, only World Tour and Travel has accepted medical referral patients but only for trips to neighboring Guam.

In an interview yesterday, Wings Travel manager Ed Camacho confirmed that they have yet to be paid by the CNMI government but he remains hopeful that the company could collect within the week.

He said the company started not accepting reservations from medical referral patients since four weeks ago, adding that this was the first time the company implemented the policy.

Of the \$180,000 the government owes travel agencies, *Saipan Tribune* learned that about \$70,000 is owed Wings Travel. The company provides airline tickets to almost 50 percent of medical referral patients in the Commonwealth.

When asked if the company is willing to reconsider its policy in case of

IN FERNANDEZ-NMC COURT BATTLE

Judge orders submission of confidential settlement letter

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court ordered yesterday former Northern Marianas College president Carmen Fernandez and NMC to submit a confidential settlement letter that could pave the way for the settlement of the case between them.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge Joaquin V. E. Manibusan Jr. directed each party to submit the confidential settlement letter—no more than 10 pages in length—by 3pm on Nov. 17, 2010.

"The letter should set forth the party's statement of the case, including strengths and weaknesses, and the party's settlement position, including the last offer or demand made by the

party and a statement of the offer or demand the party is prepared to make at the settlement conference," the judge said.

The letter, Manibusan said, shall be returned to the party that submitted the letter at the end of the settlement conference.

The status and settlement conference will be held on Nov. 22, 2010, at 10am.

"Each party shall attend such conference, either personally or through a representative with full authority to participate in settlement negotiations and to effect a complete compromise of the case," the judge said.

Fernandez estimates that her damages in connection with her lawsuit will amount to over \$300,000. NMC and its regents,

on the other hand, seek about \$50,000 in damages from Fernandez.

Fernandez sued NMC and its then regents Janet H. King,

Maria Castro "Paz" Younis, Andrew L. Orsimi, and Frank Rabauliman for allegedly depriving her of her good name and property, conspiracy, defa-

mation, and conspiracy to defame her. Except for King, all are sitting NMC regents.

Fernandez sued NMC for wrongful termination and

House oversight hearing on retirement benefits of Tinian and Rota employees

» **Another hearing may also be held on LB director's post**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) said yesterday that an oversight hearing on the retirement benefits of Rota and Tinian municipal employees will soon be held, to clarify whether these employees are indeed eligible to obtain benefits from the NMI Retirement Fund.

Tenorio said he may also call for an oversight hearing on Glenna SP. Reyes' continuous hold on the Legislative Bureau director's post, 11 months after the 17th Legislature took office. He has since been questioning the validity of Reyes' contract and appointment.

The speaker said invitation letters to the oversight hearing on the retirement benefits will be sent out in the next few days.

"I would like to hold this hearing as soon as possible. If these people [Rota and Tinian municipal employees] are not entitled to receive retirement benefits, then the NMI Retirement Fund should stop giving them these benefits," Tenorio said in a phone interview.

Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofsneider (R-Tinian) said it's within Tenorio's purview to call for an oversight hearing "on matters that are important to the public and the government."

"But the important question is, what's the speaker's real motive for an oversight hearing? Is it still retaliation against the defeat of his casino bill by senators? I think this is the reason. Or is he really concerned about the Retirement Fund?" he said.

Six of nine Senate members are from Rota and Tinian. The Senate, during a September session on Tinian, killed Tenorio's bill legalizing casino operations

on Saipan.

Unlike Tinian and Rota voters who approved casino operations on their islands, Saipan voters twice rejected a similar initiative on the island.

Tenorio said yesterday that he will call on the NMI Retirement Fund administrator, board of trustees members, the attorney general and the public auditor, among other individuals, to testify or attend the oversight hearing on the retirement benefits.

Hofsneider said the speaker's action singling out Rota and Tinian employees is questionable. He said the timing of such inquiry is also suspect.

The senator also said if the House speaker is "really serious in questioning whether Rota and Tinian are not considered part of the Commonwealth government, then he should introduce his initiative calling for a renegotiation of the Covenant between the U.S. and CNMI government.

"Why is it that all of a sudden, Rota and Tinian are not part of the Commonwealth anymore? I hope the speaker will stop this bullying tactic. There's a reason why it is called Commonwealth," Hofsneider added.

The House speaker initially wrote a letter to the NMI Retirement Fund, seeking a clarification on whether members of the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission are eligible to receive retirement benefits. He said it is his understanding that commissioners are not considered employees of the Commonwealth government "and therefore should not be members of the Retirement Fund."

As of yesterday, he has yet to receive a response from the Fund.

Tenorio later on expanded his inquiry, to also question the eligibility of Rota and Tinian municipal employees and officials to receive retirement benefits. He said he also asked the Office of the Public Auditor to clarify this matter.

breach of contract.

NMC, however, filed claims of breach of contract, and breach of fiduciary duty against Fernandez. The college said the former college president failed to follow proper procedure in changing certain student grades, in contravention of NMC's grade change policy.

in the CNMI from a merchant without a valid prescription, you should seek a medical eye exam immediately.

The sale of contact lenses, even so-called "fashion" lenses, requires a prescription in the CNMI. Any merchant in the CNMI who sells contact lenses (even if the lens power is -0.00) without a prescription from a licensed medical practitioner is violating CNMI law as well as federal regulations and should be reported to the authorities immediately. (OAG)

OAG warns vs 'fashion' contact lenses

The Office of the Attorney General recently learned that an optical clinic sold "fashion" contact lenses to a CNMI resident without a prescription from an optical clinic in Chalan Kanoa. The optical clinic is located across the street from the Susupe Post Office.

As a result, the woman suffered from swollen lids, eye pain and redness and keratitis (corneal inflammation). Fortunately,

the woman will not suffer from permanent eye damage.

The Attorney General's Investigative Unit began an investigation and learned that the merchant was in fact, selling the "fashion" lenses to customers who did not have a prescription for the lenses.

"The optical clinic cooperated fully with the investigation and numerous pairs of lenses were removed from the stream

of commerce. The optical clinic has ceased selling the contact lenses and is currently in discussions with the Office of the Attorney General to reach an agreement as to compensation for persons injured by the illegal sales. The Bureau of Environmental Health Inspector confiscated items mentioned above," said the OAG in a statement.

If you have purchased contact lenses (even "fashion" lenses)

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Study links diabetes to kidney disease

» Both diseases could be prevented, delayed by weight loss

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A visiting expert who was part of the team that initiated a research study on Saipan a couple of years back said yesterday that diabetes is a major cause of kidney disease and both could be prevented or delayed by weight loss.

Dr. William C. Knowler of

the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases discussed with health officials and hospital physicians yesterday the initial findings of the 2008-2009 study at an hour-long presentation.

A total of 454 people from Saipan, 84 of whom were receiving dialysis; and 1,847 from Guam, of whom 288 were on dialysis, volunteered for the

study, called Family Investigation of Nephropathy & Diabetes, or FIND.

Based on the research study's initial findings, 32 percent of volunteers knew they had diabetes (21 percent in Guam and Saipan), while new cases of diabetes totaled 11 percent.

Knowler said 68 percent of the study's participants were free of diabetes symptoms.

He described the 9.2 percent in Guam who knew they have diabetes to be higher than the U.S. median of 8.1 percent. The study failed to indicate the CNMI's rate because of unavailable data from Saipan.

"Diabetes is more frequent or common in older people...and one factor for diabetes is overweight and obesity," Knowler

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the CNMI Board of Parole, and pursuant to Public law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992", Notice is hereby given that a Preliminary Hearing is scheduled for November 10, 2010, (Wednesday) at 10:00 a.m., at the CNMI Board of Parole Office, Capitol Hill Road, Building Number 1216, Saipan. The following individual(s) will appear before the Hearing Examiner:

Parolee

1. DELA CRUZ, Benson Cr. Cs. No.: BOP No.:
06-0237C 09-015

If you have any question or information, please call the Parole Office at telephone numbers 664-3300 or 3302.

/s/ Rose Ada Hocog
Hearing Examiner

Dr. William C. Knowler explains the findings of a study about diabetes and kidney disease during yesterday's presentation to health officials and hospital physicians.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

said, adding that the study's findings showed that being "overweight is a much higher problem" than obesity in Guam.

Among the factors that cause kidney disease in diabetics are

the long duration of diabetes; poor control of glucose; poor control of blood pressure; the disease runs in the family; and search for inherited causes.

Among the early signs of diabetes is protein in the urine, while later signs of diabetes include high blood pressure, poor

removal of wastes, and failure to filter blood.

A Public School System study in 2005 found an "alarming" number of overweight and obese schoolchildren on the islands. This data was the last official study for the CNMI and was not considered in the new research.

Knowler said due to the absence of data, no precise estimate was provided for Saipan.

However, Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez reported yesterday that DPH has recently concluded an updated diabetes record that can be used in future studies.

Villagomez admitted that among the challenges in getting more accurate information about the disease is the unwillingness of patients, mostly men, to admit and report their illness.

Participants in yesterday's presentation were one in saying that "intervention" and "prevention" are key to preventing the disease. However, due to the limited resources for public health, implementation of such programs has been affected.



CUC preps final reports for utility commission's November session

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is now busy preparing the final reports that will be presented to the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission when it meets at this month's regulatory session, according to CUC executive director Abe Utu Malae yesterday.

He said the commission, after deciding in September not to increase power rates for the next six months, is expected to review and reaffirm its ac-

tion in the upcoming regulatory meeting.

The leveled energy adjustment clause, or LEAC rate, remains the same at \$0.24446/kWh until March 31, 2011, based on the commission's decision.

Malae said that CUC's consultant, Kema Consulting, will submit a report on the agency's power line losses, pursuant to commission order.

"The report by the engineering consultants on power line losses will be submitted to PUC. The draft report was submitted,

but the final [report] from the consultant and Pacific Power Association is not yet ready," Malae said.

He said that power consumption information on water and wastewater will also be turned in. "This is important because many of the water wells were unmetered and power consumption had to be estimated. Watt hour meters are being installed at these sites."

Malae said the commission also requires a system that would account for the portion of LEAC that is being set aside

to pay the Office of the Public Auditor.

Besides completing all the necessary reports for the commission, Malae said CUC continues to work on the 8-inch oil pipeline project in Lower Base and keep in place a good accounting system.

In its earlier decision, the commission directed CUC to promptly file with the commission the finalized KEMA Consulting report regarding CUC technical losses. After reviewing this report, the commission will invite recommendations on courses of action to monitor CUC's efforts to reduce these losses.

The commission also requires a detailed monthly analysis of the amounts of electricity being consumed by CUC's water and wastewater divisions in fiscal year 2010.

This month, CUC is also required to report on the accounting treatment and procedure it has instituted for reserving and disbursing LEAC revenues, which have been dedicated to OPA pursuant to P.L. 9-66.

CUC is also directed to retain the services of a risk management consultant and, if considered necessary, an environmental counsel, to advise it on developing a risk management strategy for potential oil spills. CUC shall report to the commission during the November regulatory session on its progress in securing these services.

A report on unmetered wastewater service is also expected. By petition filed on Sept. 6, 2010, CUC has requested until Oct. 11, 2010 to respond to CPUC's May 28, 2010 order that it investigate and report on the number of unmetered wastewater customers and the need to establish a temporary unmetered tariff.

Northern Marianas College and the College Access Challenge Project

Cash for College

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Thursday, November 11, 2010 at NMC's Building A
This will be an ongoing session, so participants can stop by anytime between 9am and 3pm.

Attending the free workshop also qualifies you for a waiver of NMC's application fee and placement test fees for the Spring 2011 semester (a savings of up to \$75!) The workshop is open to both new and ongoing students. Students who plan to start or continue their enrollment in College during the Spring 2011 semester are strongly encouraged to attend.



Although not required for entry to the workshop, please bring the following documents to help you complete the scholarship forms at the workshop:

1. ID: Passport, Birth Certificate, or Green Card
2. Official Transcript from high school (at least three official copies)
3. Tax forms: Your OR your parents' signed 2009 1040 form (2009 W-2 statements if you and/or your parents did not or will not file taxes)
4. Proof of CNMI residency for 2008 and 2009 (For Example, CNMI 1040 tax form, Employment Verification from your employer, Official Transcripts, Voter's Certification, etc.)
5. Voter Certification (to show you voted in the last election – Contact CNMI Election Commission for more information) – SHEFA Requirement

The Cash for College Workshop is made possible through the financial support of the U.S. DOE College Access Challenge Grant Program.

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Watch Bands up to \$1,000 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Earrings up to \$200 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Pocket Watches up to \$750 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Brooches up to \$1,000 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Wedding Bands up to \$350 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dental Gold up to \$900 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Link Bracelets up to \$2,500 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Coins up to \$15,000 |
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Hard Rock unveils programs for elementary students

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hard Rock Café Saipan has designed school programs that acknowledge excellence in education and help raise funds for deserving elementary schools on island.

Operations manager Reynaldo Perez said Hard Rock Saipan created the Rock-Aid Fundraiser Program and the Perfect Attendance & Achievement Awards to show their support for quality education in the community.

He said the programs, started in 2004, are in effect every school year.

Any student who dines at Hard Rock Café will have 10 percent of his or her meal tab donated to the student's school through the Rock-Aid Fundraiser Program. The amount raised is given to the respective school per school year, said Perez.

Perez told *Saipan Tribune* that Hard Rock came up with the Perfect Attendance & Achievement Awards to give recognition to deserving students who have demonstrated exemplary performance in school.

"At Hard Rock Café, we value our future guests, vendors and potential employees and strive to encourage students to do well, so that Saipan benefits

from a great education," he said.

The operations manager said they obtain the names of those with perfect attendance and those who have outstanding grades or have made excellent quarterly progress in class through the school principals.

These students are given a certificate of recognition that entitles them to a free student meal at Hard Rock. Choices for the meal include burger, macaroni and cheese, chicken wings, hotdog or salad, inclusive of a free drink.

Perez said about 200 students were given certificates last year. He said they expect better participation this school year.

While the annual participation in their school programs is concentrated on public schools, Perez said they are also open to private elementary schools and their students.

Perez said they are hopeful that more children will be involved in their programs and that parents and families become more engaged in their children's education.

Hard Rock also offers School Educational Field Trip Tour, Birthday like a Rock Star and other theme concept children's parties with authentic rock n' roll experience.

For more information, call Perez at 233-ROCK (7625).



CAREER DAY

Sgt. Maj. Yong Fox, the detachment commander of the U.S. Army-Guam Recruiting Detachment, talk to students at Grace Christian Academy on Navy Hill during the school's Fourth Annual Career Day on Friday, which had the theme, "My Future, My Mission."

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

TEACH grants open to UoG students taking up degrees in high-need areas

The University of Guam was recently approved by the U.S. Department of Education to begin providing TEACH grants to its students. The Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education, TEACH, grant is a federal program that strives to encourage teachers into high-need teaching areas in K-12 schools that serve low-income students, a designation that is met by all of Guam's public schools.

The TEACH Grant is a conditional, non-need based grant available for eligible students pursuing a degree in a high need field. TEACH grants are not loans. Up to \$4,000 can be awarded per year to full-time students with a cap of \$16,000 for undergraduate programs and professional degrees, and \$8,000 for graduate programs. Recipients must have a grade point average of 3.25 and agree to teach for four years in a public school that serves low income students.

High need teaching areas on Guam for 2010 -11 include:

■ Chamorro Language & Culture (Pre-K—12)

- Other Foreign Languages
- Language Arts (Middle & High)
 - ESL
 - Reading Specialist
 - TESOL
- Math (Middle & High)
 - Algebra
 - Calculus
 - Geometry
- School Librarian (Elem./ Middle/High)
- Science (Middle & High)
 - Biology
 - Chemistry
 - Earth Science
 - Physical science
 - Physics
- Special Education (Pre-K—12)
 - Behavioral Disorders
 - Early Childhood Handicapped
 - Hearing Impaired
 - Interrelated Program
 - Learning Disability
 - Moderately/Profoundly Handicapped
 - Severe Emotional Disturbed
 - Speech/Language Pathologist
 - Visually Impaired
- Guidance Counselors

TEACH Grant recipients must agree to teach for at least four academic years within eight calendar years of completing the program of study for which they received a TEACH Grant. TEACH Grant recipients who do not complete the required teaching service will be required to repay the grants as a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, with interest charged from the date of each TEACH Grant disbursement.

UOG anticipates awarding the first TEACH Grant in the 2011 Spring Semester.

The University of Guam will host an orientation for TEACH grants as well as for Yamashita Educator Corps scholarships on Dec. 7, 2010, at 4pm in the Anthony A. Leon Guerrero multipurpose room, first floor, School of Business and Public Administration.

Visit the UOG Financial Aid Office website (www.uog.edu/financialaid) to view details about the TEACH grants. For more information contact Mark Duarte, Financial Aid director, at mduarte@uguam.uog.edu. (UoG)

Veterans to be honored this Thursday

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Appreciation awards will be given to acknowledge the bravery and sacrifices of veterans on Nov. 11 in celebration of Veterans Day.

Park ranger Nancy Kelchner said the USNS *1st Lt Jack Lummus* led by Commodore Henry Awi will hand out the awards in a ceremony to be held at the Court of Honor of the American Memorial Park at 11am.

"These veterans deserve to be recognized for their remarkable courage and heroism for serving our country," Kelchner told *Saipan Tribune*.

Kelchner said Capt. Thomas McK. Sparks of the U.S. Coast Guard will serve as the guest speaker while Capt. Ulysses O. Zalamea, deputy director of the Joint Guam Program Office, will serve as the keynote speaker.

Kelchner said they expect a crowd between 200 to 250 to take part in the Nov. 11 ceremony in honor of all war veterans.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Nov. 9, 1999

Teno slams use of NMI waters to tranship radioactive waste

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has assailed the practice of using the CNMI waters for transshipment of nuclear waste without informing the island government because it endangers the people and the environment of the Northern Marianas. In expressing concern to the devastating effects of an accident while the vessels are passing the CNMI waters, Tenorio urged the Legislature to pass appropriate measures to protect the people's health and the environment. "We have always maintained that we should be informed whenever vessels carrying nuclear waste travel close to the CNMI because we want to be prepared in case anything happens," he said.

CPA renews plea for land transfer

Commonwealth Ports Authority Executive Director Carlos H. Salas has expressed hope that the Board of Public Lands would decide favorably on the agency's request to transfer to CPA some 39 acres of land at Tanapag Harbor for the expansion of its seaport property. The additional land area will be used to accommodate larger volume of cargo and materials as well as support future growth activities in the port. Salas said the transfer would allow the ports authority maintain a cohesive and orderly plan for its future expansion. Three years ago, the United States released to the CNMI government the leasehold interest in 39 acres of the 44-acre Covenant leaseback land at Tanapag Harbor.

Nov. 9, 2000

National authors exhibit the art of storytelling

Garapan Elementary School 1st graders witnessed yesterday their favorite story books come to life before their very eyes as two of the most published children's books authors read them tales embedded with old fashioned values and wisdom. The children gasped in awe and delight while the seasoned San Francisco-based storytellers Dr. Alma Flor Ada and F. Isabel Campoy read their works that school students in public schools nationwide grew up with over the years. Through an innovative storytelling technique, the visiting authors invited student participation by assigning them to take on impromptu character roles.

JAL flying on high load factor

Japan Airlines has been consistently flying between major cities in the country and Saipan on a high load factor as it deployed aircraft that are about 85 to 90 percent filled with passengers, disclosed JAL sales manager Yasuyoshi Kinoshita. In an interview yesterday, Mr. Kinoshita said JAL has dispatched three additional flights from two heavily-populated Japanese cities—Kansai and Nagoya—in September, ferrying close to 600 passengers to Saipan. Two of the three extra flights were deployed from Nagoya while one ferried passengers from Kansai, said Kinoshita, pointing out that the additional services were spurred by stronger demand in September which has more national holidays in Japan.

Nov. 9, 2001

Manglona upbeat on 13th Legislature

Senate President Paul Manglona expressed optimism over the incoming 13th Legislature, saying he is confident that the upper chamber will have a good working relationship with the House of Representatives next year. "The new Speaker will have behind him a Republican super-majority. I feel that this will be very good for the new Governor. The House will have very aggressive, young and energetic new members, so I think that we can work well with the House," said Manglona. Reports have it that the incoming congressmen-elect have already chosen incumbent Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider as their new Speaker but Hofschneider himself earlier said that it is too early to talk about such matters.

TANO Group gets contract for CUC sewerage project

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has conditionally expressed its intent to award the \$115,800 Gualo Rai sewer system expansion project to the TANO Group Inc. Rep. William S. Torres clarified, though, that due to the limited funds, the CUC has decided to split the project into two phases, citing a letter by CUC executive director Timothy P. Villagomez to TANO Group Inc. vice-president Robert J. Bracken. "According to Villagomez, the initial stage of the project-Phase I-will cost \$65,696, while Phase II will cost \$50,104," said Torres. In his letter to Bracken, Villagomez reminded the construction firm about the decision to split the project into two during its earlier discussion with CUC Wastewater Division officials.

9 schools sign up for Christmas Tree Décor Contest

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Belated happy 24th birthday to Niña Luisa "Bonita" Camacho! We hope you enjoyed your day with laughter and fun, with all the joyous moments you had! God bless and may you have more wonderful birthdays to come. Greetings coming out from your loving Mom.



Happy, happy birthday to Iorani Edwin Rasa! We hope you enjoy your day! Be safe and don't get into trouble. Party it up, brother! Greetings come from the White Girls, your family, and friends!



Happy birthday, Tan Ping! We love you and miss you so much! We hope you enjoy your special day! Greetings come from your family here and in Guam and Vancouver.



Happy birthday greetings go out to Valerie Agulto Mendiola, who is celebrating her birthday today! May you be blessed with many more birthdays to come, and may you have an awesomely wonderful day! Much love coming from Francis, Ikaika, Kalia, your Umang family, and your Framingham cohort!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

» Registration still open; deadline on Nov. 15

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Nine private and public elementary schools have signed up for the 5th Annual Christmas Tree Decorating Contest at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.

These schools are the Tana-pag Elementary School, Saipan Community School, Koberville Elementary School,

Dandan Elementary School, Garapan Elementary School, Agape Christian School, San Vicente Elementary School, William S. Reyes Elementary School, and Golden Harvest International School.

Participating schools compete by decorating the Christmas trees using recycled materials such as plastic cans, water bottles, and tin cans.

Last year's winner was the Joshua Generation International Academy, which bested 13 other teams and took home the \$5,000 grand prize.

According to Sonia Siwa of PDM Promoters, the Christmas Tree Decorating Contest is the organization's premier event during the holiday season.

Siwa told *Saipan Tribune* that the annual contest also aims to

make the Paseo de Marianas and Garapan vicinity a family-oriented place that is safe and clean for tourists and the local community.

Deadline to register for the contest is Nov. 15.

Siwa said all Christmas trees to be decorated this year measure 9 feet tall, as opposed to last year's 7 feet.

Participants are scheduled

to decorate the Christmas trees with the recycled materials on Dec. 1.

The judging of the entries will be on Dec. 2, which will coincide with the unveiling of the giant Christmas tree to be built by RNV Construction.

Siwa urged other schools to participate in the 5th Annual Christmas Tree Decorating Contest, which helps promote recycling on the island.

For more information, contact Sonia Siwa at 234-6900.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Oleai Elementary PTSA meeting today

The PTSA officers of Oleai Elementary School would like to inform the parents and guardians of Oleai Elementary School students that there will be PTSA meeting today, Nov. 9, 2010, 6pm, in the school cafeteria. Everyone is encouraged to attend. (PR)

KagES PTA meeting tomorrow

The Kagman Elementary School monthly PTA meeting will be held tomorrow, Nov. 10, 2010, at 6:30pm in the school cafeteria. Important matters will be discussed. If you have any questions feel free to call us at 664-3910/ 11/ 12.

PAWS sets photo-for-calendar contest

PAWS is holding a Saipan Animal Photo Contest from Nov. 8 to 22, 2010.

The contest requires only that:

- a submission be sent via email in .jpeg format;
- the picture be of a family pet on Saipan;
- the owner's name be included in the email; and
- there are no copyrights or restrictions for the reprinting of the photo.

All photo submissions will be uploaded to the PAWS Saipan Facebook page, and anyone interested is requested to vote for their favorite photo through the "like" option for Facebook pictures.

On Nov. 23, 2010, the top 12 photos will be determined after voting, and then used in a 2011 PAWS Calendar. Those who submitted the winning 12 pictures will receive a free calendar as a prize, and the remaining

calendars will be sold at several different locations, with proceeds going to PAWS.

If interested in participating, send your name and picture in an email to pawssaipancalendar@gmail.com before Nov. 22, 2010, and don't forget to vote for your favorite picture on Facebook! (PAWS)

Diabetes awareness forum in Kagman

This month, the Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition, Division of Public Health Diabetes Prevention and Control Program, and the Ayuda Network will launch the first of a series of six Diabetes Health Community Forums on Saturday, Nov. 13, 2010, at the Laulau Bay Golf Resort.

The forum, which will be held from 7am to 3pm, will target residents of I Denni, Papago, As Teo, and the entire Kagman peninsula community.

A similar forum will be held in five other key community districts throughout the Northern Marianas:

- February 2011 for residents of Capital Hill, Tana-pag, Matansa, As Matuis, and Marpi;
- April 2011 for residents of As Lito, San Vicente, Tutturam, Dandan, Fina Sisu, Koberville, San Antonio, and Afetnas;
- June 2011 for residents of Chalan Kanoa, Susupe, Oleai, Chalan Laulau, Chalan Kiya, Puerto Rico, Navy Hill, I Rueda, and Sadog Tasi; and
- One each on Rota and Tinian.

There will also be 2010 Health and Wellness Fair on Nov. 20, 2010, from 10am to 4pm at the Civic Center tennis court in Susupe. (PR)

Public Health Liaison Office relocates tomorrow

The Department of Public Health will be relocating the Public Health Liaison Office that is presently located on the 2nd floor of the Afetnas Center to the Bureau of Environmental Health's main office building N-8 on Navy Hill, starting tomorrow, Nov. 10, 2010. All alien health and food handler certificates will be issued at the new PHLO location starting Nov. 10. For more information, contact 664-4870/ 72, fax number 664-4871 or send BEH an email at divbeh1@pticom.com. (PR)

Military training at W-517 today

The U.S. Navy would be conducting military training at W-517 today, Nov. 9, from 8am to 5pm.

W-517 is an irregular polygon comprising 14,000 nautical miles of airspace and begins south of Guam and extend south-southwest in international waters and at Farallon De Mendenilla Training Area. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles and laser exercises. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa and Galvez Bank.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, the CNMI Emergency Management Office is advising residents—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—to take precautionary measures around this area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. or dial CNMI 211 for this advisory. (PR)

CNMI GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

2011 Health Insurance Rates



**LAST DAY TO APPLY
NOV. 30th 2010**

STAYWELL BENEFITS

- Refund Program
- \$750,000 annual maximum*
- 100% coverage for off-island, in-patient care*
- No lifetime limit
- Out of Pocket Annual Maximum:
Single = \$1,500; Couple = \$3,000; Family = \$4,500

*Some conditions apply

More benefits at a Lower Price!

CLASS	ACTIVE GOVT	Bi-WEEKLY	BI-WEEKLY
CLASS	ACTIVE GOVT	MEDICAL	MED & DENTAL
Single	STAYWELL	\$65.00	\$91.00
	Aetna	\$85.87	No Dental Plan
	<i>StayWell Annual Savings = \$542.62 + Potential Refund</i>		
Couple	STAYWELL	\$130.00	\$182.00
	Aetna	\$176.02	No Dental Plan
	<i>Staywell Annual Savings = \$1,196.52 + Potential Refund</i>		
Family	STAYWELL	\$208.00	\$265.00
	Aetna	\$274.77	No Dental Plan
	<i>StayWell Annual Savings = \$1,736.02 + Potential Refund</i>		

AETNA BENEFITS

- No Refund Program
- \$200,000 annual maximum
- 80% coverage for off-island, in-patient care
- \$1,000,000 lifetime limit
- Out of Pocket Annual Maximum:
Single = \$4,000; Couple = \$8,000; Family = \$12,000

Contact STAYWELL

Phone: 323-4260/61/62 • Fax: 323-4263 • Email: elplinske@staywellguam.com • Flame Tree Terrace Office Building, Lower Capitol Hill

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Time for Obama to stand his ground

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Man up, Mr. President.

The image of a whimpering, apologetic loser that Barack Obama presented to the world Wednesday after his Election Day shellacking was an embarrassment to those of us who had cheered his own decisive victory two short years ago.

America elected Obama president, and America needs a strong president—all the more so when he's under siege. But as Republicans gear up for the fight of their lives, Obama appears to be ironing his white flag.

If Obama cannot revive the fiery eloquence and forward-thinking agenda that won America's hearts and minds in 2008, then he's destined to be a one-term president—perhaps not even his party's nominee in 2012. America saw a different Obama in 2008. We need him back.

Admittedly, last week's election was different from the midterm party changes in Congress that have been common for new presidents, including George W. Bush and Bill Clinton. Both parties once engaged in compromise when they could agree on goals. But since Obama's election, this Republican Party has embraced a strategy of simply blocking anything that might be seen as a presidential victory, whether or not it would be good for the country.

The architect of that strategy, John Boehner, now will be speaker of the House. And, on Thursday, Mitch McConnell, the Senate Republican leader, reaffirmed that ousting Obama is the "only way" to advance the Republican agenda.

Obama should have learned from the health care debate that attempting to compromise with people who aren't interested is futile; you end up with inferior policies and disappoint your supporters. Yet the president already is caving on extending the Bush tax cuts that help the wealthy at the expense of the middle class and will add \$700 billion to the deficit. This even though recent polls show that a strong majority of Americans supports ending those tax breaks—and, by the way, continuing health care reform.

In 2008, Obama electrified a solid majority of voters. His problem since has not been that he was too bold, as he seems to think. It's that he has not been bold enough.

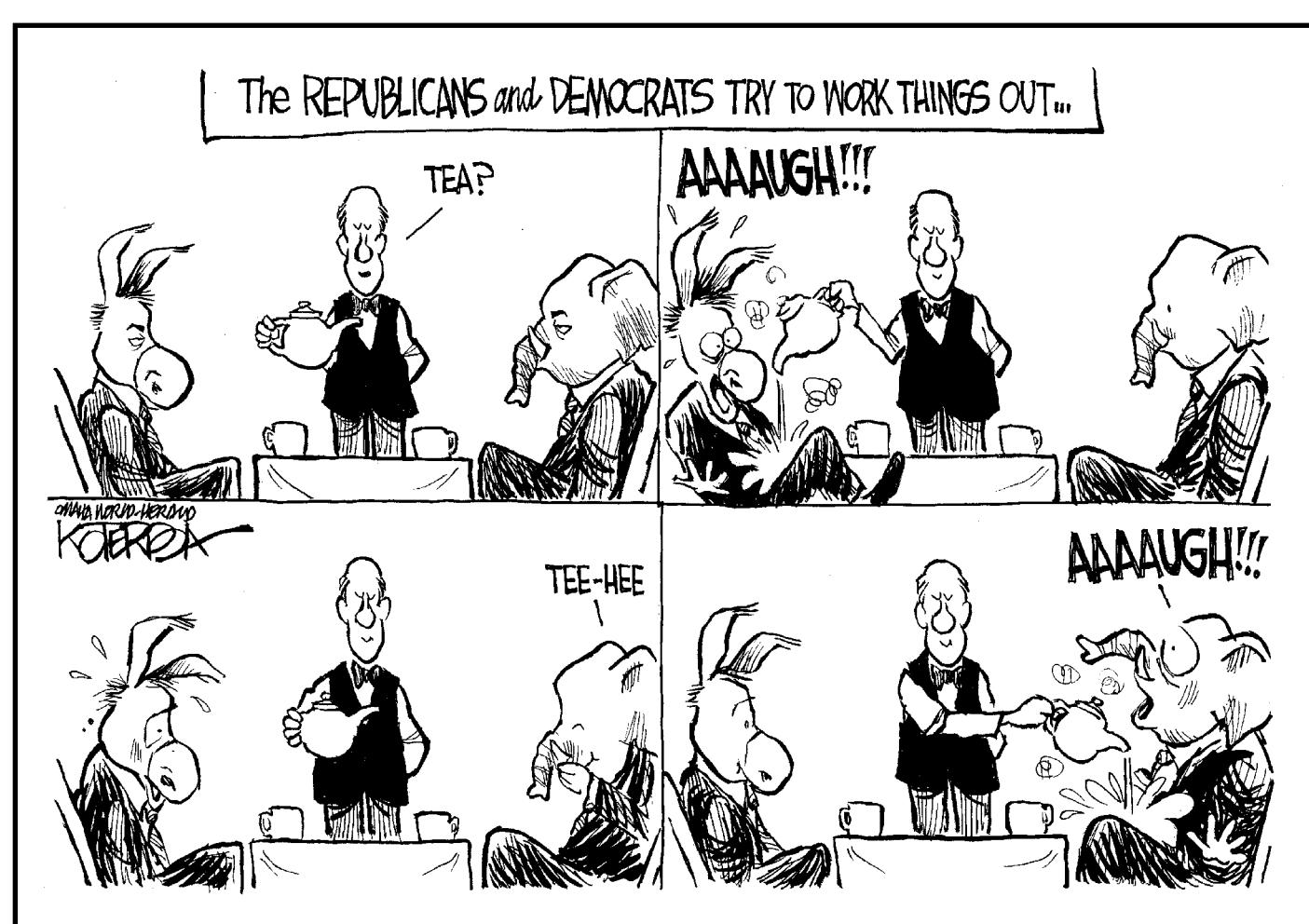
Candidate Obama promised that if elected, he would go about things differently from previous administrations. Then he spent two years trying to play the same old tired game of Washington politics, and doing it badly. He's been humbled. But he's still the president. He needs to act like it.

So here's the choice.

Obama can spend the next year offering up wishy-washy legislation, begging Republicans to help him pass it and seeing them shoot it down anyway.

Or he can go to the American people—taking a page from Franklin D. Roosevelt's playbook—and summon up the eloquence that moved voters two years ago. He can stand up for ideas they overwhelmingly support and make clear the problem is not him but the opposition party. He can drill in on the Republican "Party of No" strategy and make it an embarrassment, which it should be. He can force the opposition to the negotiating table, where they can forge compromises in the best interests of the country.

Game on, Mr. President. The clock is ticking.



'Superman' exposes the myth of the common school

Each morning, wanting to believe in our schools, we take a leap of faith," filmmaker Davis Guggenheim says in "Waiting for Superman." His much-acclaimed documentary then gives us every reason to doubt. By framing this account of the public school system's failure in terms of trust, "Waiting for Superman" manages to do something far more subversive than merely record union-induced systemic dysfunction. The documentary does nothing less than cast doubt on this core belief of America's civil religion: our faith in the public school system as the mediator of our national ideals and the gateway to opportunity for all children.

From Guggenheim's own admission that he's "betraying the ideals" he thought he espoused (driving his children past three public schools to a private school he's chosen) to deplorable facts (for example, six in 10 students in East Los Angeles do not graduate from high school), the film breeds skepticism about a popular national myth.

This is a myth of long standing. It was called the "myth of the common school" by Boston University professor Charles Glenn in a book by that title originally published in 1988. The myth was spread by progressive reformers like Horace Mann in the 19th century amid anxiety over immigration and social unrest. By requiring all children to attend "common" schools, the reformers proposed to enlighten students with values that would transcend sectarian and cultural differences. The myth has dominated the American imagination for more than 150 years, even as it has failed to fulfill its founders' promises.

As Glenn writes: "We have expected that our schools would banish crime and social divisions, that they would make our children better than we have ever been. Horace Mann and others promised us that, and we believed them. It is no wonder that suggestions ... that our society's secular church be disestablished arouse the deepest anxiety and confusion today."

True to form, education unions are seething about promotion of charter schools in "Waiting for Superman," and its proposals to end tenure and link pay to performance. "The film demonizes public education," said National Education Association President Dennis Van Roekel. Local unions organized demonstrations outside some theaters.

Such protests reinforce what viewers witness in the theater: stories of a failed status quo, protected by powerful interests, planted in the way of children such as 5th-grader Daisy in East L.A. Daisy's parents, Jose and Judith, dropped out of high school to help their own parents keep food on the table. But they've communicated the value of education to their daughter. Daisy wants to be either a veterinarian or a surgeon—an idea she got from a library book—and she already has written to the college she wants to attend. But first she'll have to navigate an assigned high school where only three

By JENNIFER MARSHALL

The Heritage Foundation

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in 100 students graduate with college-prep prerequisites. With her father out of work and her mother on a hospital cleaning staff, there is no buying their way out. Daisy's parents are forced to make the ritual "leap of faith." Her mother makes the sign of the cross over her before sending her to school. But they still enter a lottery for a seat at a high-performing charter school, crossing their fingers as 135 students vie for 10 spots.

If the common school works for anyone, it should work for Daisy. It doesn't. Guggenheim himself doesn't seem to appreciate the extent of what he has wrought. With stories like these, his inquiry has exposed flaws deeper than the film's modest remedies can fix. The obvious solution is to demythologize the common school, setting parents and teachers free to pursue educational arrangements that work.

We can affirm that education is a common good deserving taxpayer support. But we should question the notion of government as sole provider of schooling, a relic of the common school agenda. Public education should describe a goal (an educated citizenry), not prescribe a means (a government monopoly school system dominated by unions).

Parents, who have the most vested in their children's success, should have real decision-making authority to manage their education. They deserve more than lip service about their significance. Rather than having to conform to the one-size-fits-all factory model of education, parents should have the freedom to direct the funding for their children's education, customizing it to student needs from a variety of options.

Promising alternatives already have sprouted up in the cracks of the current system—charter schools, private school choice through vouchers and tax credits, homeschooling, online learning, and hybrid forms of these.

Given room to flourish, the possibilities are endless. Intentionally or not, Guggenheim has exposed the myth of the common school. Ultimately, the only solution that will satisfy the American spirit is to disestablish the myth and recover a vision for education worthy of a free people.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

'Present without admission' waiver? Maybe

Aliens Present Without Admission or Parole...An alien present in the United States without being admitted or paroled, or who arrives in the United States at any time or place other than as designated by the Attorney General, is inadmissible.

—Immigration & Nationality Act, Section 212(a)(6)(A)(i)

On November 28, 2009 most aliens present in the CNMI became present in the United States by operation of the law, without admission or parole. Congress, however, directed that those aliens are not removable under section 212(a)(6)(A) of the INA for the first two years of the transition period if they were in a lawful immigration status granted by the CNMI government before the start of the transition period. In addition, aliens who are "lawfully present and authorized to be employed in the Commonwealth pursuant to the immigration laws of the Commonwealth on [November 28, 2009] shall be considered authorized by the Secretary of Homeland Security to be employed in the Commonwealth until the earlier of... (A) the expiration of the alien's employment authorization under the immigration laws of the Commonwealth or (B)...2 years after [November 28, 2009]."

—Draft Policy Memorandum PM-602-XXXX, quoting the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, Section 702(e)(1)

Present without admission or parole: Limited protection in the CNRA

What do these quotes mean? The first is part of the section of the Immigration & Nationality Act, or INA, captioned "Illegal Immigrants and Immigration Violators." We previously warned that Department of Homeland Security—particularly sister subagencies USCIS and ICE—consider all aliens in the CNMI who do not have either U.S. visas or U.S. parole to be "present without admission." That is the case even if these aliens are in the CNMI on a pre-existing valid CNMI immigration status, or via a form of parole such as parole in place. "Present without admission" is a designation usually reserved for deportable aliens. As we reported in our column on government-generated rumors, this past August, there is apparently at least one misinformed ICE officer on Guam who believes that "there are 21,000 illegals in the CNMI." We responded then, and still respond, "Not."

Well, not yet, anyway. The second quote refers to the part of the CNRA that says that an alien legally present in the CNMI on Nov. 28, 2009 cannot be removed (deported), all other things being equal, solely because he or she is here without inspection and admission or parole by a U.S. immigration officer. An alien subject to this provision is protected from removal until either the CNMI admission expires, or until after Nov. 27, 2011, whichever comes first. Of course, if there is another valid reason for removal before

When it comes to supercomputing, we're No. 2

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America's smug sense of technological superiority took a hit last week with China's news that it has built the fastest supercomputer ever made.

The Tianhe-1A can make roughly 2,500 trillion calculations per second. We'll need some engineer to come up with a clever analogy to put that into perspective, but for now, let's just say it's really, really fast.

Breakthroughs like this have generally been ours. So how worried should the United States be about China's accomplishment? Very—but not for the obvious reason.

Supercomputers are used to analyze massive amounts of data and simulate ultra-complex financial, scientific and defense problems. So China's breakthrough is significant—but its supercomputers are still powered by American chips. The Tianhe-1A uses thousands of Nvidia GPUs (graphic processing units) and Intel CPUs (central processing units) to blow away its competition.

The reason the United States should be concerned is that this illustrates China's commitment to developing the world's greatest collection of computer scientists. This country, meanwhile, continues to trail other developed nations in math and science. America's 15-year-olds ranked 25th in math and 21st in science in recent world rankings.

As Boston University computer science professor Azer Bestavros told Forbes, "The much more important question is whether we are investing in the education and training of the next generation of computer scientists who will use ... such machines."

We know of no respected tech or education expert who believes the answer to that question is yes.

that date, the alien may still find himself or herself in hot water, and in the immigration court.

So, the majority of the Commonwealth's aliens—and still the bulk of our workforce—are present without admission but for the time being (assuming they have umbrella permits) neither illegal nor deportable. We have repeatedly stated that anyone who is eligible for a green card—legal permanent residence—should apply, and that those who may be eligible in the reasonably near future should make plans now.

We are still waiting for the regulations for the long-overdue CW1 visa, which will offer some relief to those people who do not qualify for green cards, and also do not qualify for any other U.S. visa, such as H-1B (specialty occupations) or L-1A (intracompany transferee executives and managers). We hope that the regulations will be issued soon enough prior to Nov. 27, 2011, so that the California Service Center, which will be tasked with handling these applications, can timely process the anticipated thousands of applications. For people with no other option, we can only say, "wait, and hope."

The draft policy: Possible, sensible relief

But what about those who do qualify for a nonimmigrant visa but are present in the CNMI "without admission"? What does "present without admission" mean for their applications? What about those who have left the CNMI and returned to their status—so they think—pursuant to advance parole? Also in August, we reported the misadventure of a client who had applied for an E-2 nonimmigrant "treaty investor" visa, for which he unquestionably qualified. The visa was at first granted by USCIS, and then revoked—on the ground that he was present in the CNMI pursuant to a parole, and people on parole cannot adjust status. We applied for reconsideration for the client, on the ground that advance parole in the CNMI was not intended to break lawful admission under CNMI law and the CNRA. Denied. We concluded then that to avoid any repetition of this unfortunate scenario, all of our applicants for these kinds of visas would have to apply entirely through consular processing, by application to the Department of State's consulates.

We thought then, and think now, that this result was a triumph of legalism over reality. Apparently someone in USCIS has been thinking similar thoughts, because now there is a proposed waiver of this particular ground of inadmissibility which, if adopted, will be applicable only in the CNMI.

In late October, USCIS sent notice of a proposed Policy Memorandum (PM-602-XXXX, available at <http://tinyurl.com/29h3ehr>) titled "Waivers of Inadmissibility and Grants of Status for Certain Aliens Seeking Nonimmigrant Status in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)." The proposed policy is available in draft form for comment only—and sorry, but the brief comment period closed Nov. 5—but it is a big step forward, which we hope will be adopted.

The Policy Memorandum notes that, "Although...the INA generally authorizes USCIS to change an alien's status from one nonimmigrant classification to another, there is no provision specifically providing for a grant of nonimmigrant status to an alien present in

Letter to the Editor

Open letter to my fellow guest workers: Join the prayer rally

I know you are tired of waiting for answer to our prayers. Most of you, if not all, are already beginning to get disappointed because up to this point, the future of 16,000 guest workers in the CNMI is still uncertain. We've been waiting for as long as we can remember.

I write to you today to encourage you to continue fighting for what we believe in. Don't give up! Let's continue to use every available opportunity to voice out our sentiments.

I ask you to join the prayer rally and petition drive tonight. If we want to ask President Obama to provide us protection, we need to show him that the 16,000 guest workers of the CNMI are united in this petition. This is the only way we can get his attention, with our solid number.

As for me, I'm still holding on to what I believe in—that something good will happen no matter what the other side does to prevent or delay it. It will happen in God's right time.

Pray without ceasing. God bless the CNMI's guest workers and God bless the prayer rally tonight.

Irene N. Tantiado
Savannakhet, Laos PDR

IMMIGRATION FORUM

By MAYA KARA and BRUCE MAILMAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Maya Kara is a native of Hungary and comes to the practice of law by way of her interest in Asian history. Bruce Mailman is a native of Bakersfield, California and was a private investigator in California prior to becoming a lawyer. Both have lived and practiced law in the CNMI for over 20 years, Maya in government service and Bruce in private practice. They are married and are partners in the law firm of Mailman & Kara, LLC in Garapan, Saipan.

the United States who is not already in or deemed by law to be in a nonimmigrant classification." The problem is that "present without admission" is a ground of inadmissibility under the INA.

The new policy, if adopted, will recognize "the unique legal situation in the CNMI," and will allow an eligible alien to apply to USCIS to exercise its "waiver authority" upon proof of "a valid, unexpired passport and other documentary evidence of lawful presence in the CNMI." The Policy Memorandum provides proposed guidance for USCIS adjudication officers, plus a proposed amendment of the Adjudicator's Field Manual, or AFM, the USCIS officer's bible. The memorandum states that:

Allowing for the grant of nonimmigrant status to eligible aliens who are physically present in the CNMI will help encourage these aliens and their employers to seek an appropriate, federal immigration status for themselves and their employees. This PM [Policy Memorandum] is consistent with congressional intent to promote as rapid and smooth a transition as possible from former CNMI statuses to federally based statuses.

This is consistent with the admirable flexibility USCIS has shown in dealing with the challenges in implementing the CNRA. Here are the proposed guidelines that will be included in the AFM, if the new policy is approved:

The prospective immigrant must meet the following criteria in order for the waiver to be granted:

- Be lawfully present in the CNMI under a grant of parole by USCIS; a grant of parole by CBP pursuant to an advance parole by USCIS; or under the "grandfather provision" of the CNRA...providing for continued lawful presence and work authorization (if applicable) for up to two years after Nov. 27, 2009.
- Have appropriate documents in the form of a valid unexpired passport and other evidence (such as a CNMI government-issued "umbrella permit" or other permit in the case of the grandfather provision, or a DHS-issued Form I-94 pursuant to a grant of parole) that the alien meets the lawful presence requirements for the waiver described above.
- File an application for nonimmigrant status or have a petition for nonimmigrant status filed on his or her behalf by an employer, seeking a nonimmigrant classification other than [B1 or B2].
- Meet all of the other statutory and regulatory criteria for the intended nonimmigrant visa classification (such as L, H, F, or P).
- Have successfully completed all appropriate USCIS security checks.
- Meet his or her burden of proving admissibility other than for the specific grounds of inadmissibility for which a waiver is available under this policy.
- Demonstrate that he or she otherwise merits a favorable exercise of discretion.

Best of all, no particular form or fee will be required to request this proposed waiver, and the waiver may even be granted without the alien having to make a request. That alone is big news: application for a waiver of inadmissibility is ordinarily expensive, time-consuming, and not guaranteed to succeed.

Note that this is a proposed waiver for change of status. We have often referred to the difference between status (permission to be in a country, or part of it, subject to certain conditions) and a visa (a physical document evidencing that status). An alien who still wants a visa, or who has a status and needs to travel and return to the CNMI and therefore needs a visa, will still have to apply for the physical document from the appropriate consulate abroad.

For today, USCIS has our vote.

The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, and not as individual legal advice. Readers should obtain professional legal advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding federalization or immigration issues to the authors by email to lexmarianas@pticom.com. Readers may also e-mail written questions through the Saipan Tribune at editor@saipantribune.com.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲ 88° ▾ 77° ▲ 88° ▾ 77° ▲ 88° ▾ 77° ▲ 88° ▾ 77° ▲ 88° ▾ 77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▾ 79
Palau	Showers	▲ 88 ▾ 78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▾ 77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 82 ▾ 75
Pohnpei	Rain	▲ 82 ▾ 74
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▾ 76
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 84 ▾ 76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲ 66 ▾ 55
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲ 59 ▾ 31
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲ 79 ▾ 56
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 80 ▾ 70
London	Cloudy	▲ 48 ▾ 45
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 69 ▾ 51
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▾ 75
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 78 ▾ 56
Miami	Sunny	▲ 80 ▾ 62
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 56 ▾ 43
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 60 ▾ 47
Paris	Showers	▲ 49 ▾ 43
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 61 ▾ 44
Rome	Rain	▲ 65 ▾ 54
Salem	Showers	▲ 45 ▾ 41
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 62 ▾ 54
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 52 ▾ 36
Tokyo	Sunny	▲ 62 ▾ 49
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲ 61 ▾ 46

Tides

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:16 AM	5:46 PM	Today	8:58 AM	8:27 PM
Wednesday	6:16 AM	5:45 PM	Wednesday	9:52 AM	9:24 PM
Thursday	6:17 AM	5:45 PM	Thursday	10:41 AM	10:18 PM
Friday	6:17 AM	5:45 PM	Friday	11:25 AM	11:09 PM
Saturday	6:18 AM	5:45 PM	Saturday	12:06 PM	11:58 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

■ ISLAND SNAPSHOT Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

■ BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

■ BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

■ SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

■ TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 2, 2010

DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM			GUAM-SAIPAN				
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	Daily	DL286	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN				
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5	OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN				
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ704/605	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7				via ICN
C09317/891	2:45am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/286	7:55am	8:25pm	Daily via NRT
				C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT	DL270/603	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C09313/893	7:55am	10:10pm	3 via	DL270/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
							via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C0892/9596	9:55pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM- Palau
							via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	10:10pm	5 via GUM- Palau	C0892/9596	9:55pm	7:50am+1	6 via GUM- Palau
							via GUM
OZ606/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	PR110/C0596	10:00pm	7:25am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
C09599/PRI11	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7				via GUM
				C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 6, 7
							via GUM

Business

IP&E sells 25 pct. stake to Japanese conglomerate

Isla Petroleum & Energy announced yesterday that it has sold a 25-percent stake to the Itochu Petroleum Co. (Singapore) PTE Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of Itochu Corp. of Japan, one of Japan's largest trading companies.

IPC is a leading trader of fuels worldwide, with headquarters in Singapore. IP&E is a company formed by Prospector Investments Ltd., to acquire the assets of Shell in the North Pacific.

Shunsuke Oba, a director of IPC, said "With IP&E, Itochu has found a partner who has unparalleled access to the island nations of the Pacific, a strong management team, and most importantly, an owner that shares the same management philosophy that we do. We both understand the importance of *Sampo Yoshi* (Good for buyer, Good for seller, and Good for society), which

is the founding philosophy of our company. We hope to grow IP&E together in the decades ahead and work side by side with the Delgado family to further its development."

Itochu, founded in 1858, has become one of the 250 largest corporations in the world according to *Fortune* magazine. It has diverse interests in aerospace, machinery, mining, petroleum, energy, food, and chemicals. It was the first large Japanese company to do business in China, and continues to maintain a strong presence in the world's fastest growing economy. Recently, it has ventured into green energy with General Electric to build one of the largest wind farms in the U.S. Through its domestic subsidiary, Itochu Enex, it controls over 2000 gas stations in Japan. This year's revenues for Itochu are

forecasted to reach \$40 billion, and the company expects to net \$2 billion.

For IP&E, the equity infusion by IPC changes the potential growth trajectory of the company. Jose Ricardo Delgado, CEO, said "This transaction fortifies the company's balance sheet to fund future growth plans, and gives IP&E the capability to deal with more volatile energy markets. While we were doing well on our own, the partnership with IPC opens up the possibilities of doing business across the entire Pacific, from the Philippines to the State of Hawaii. In this kind of business, it is comforting to be partnered with a company whose existence has spanned three centuries, and has the financial resources to weather

even the most turbulent of times."

Prospector Investments Limited, the parent company of IP&E, is a closely held company controlled by the Delgado family of the Philippines. It was initially formed to purchase telecom assets from Verizon, and has now branched into petroleum distribution through IP&E. In the last five years, it has rapidly grown by concluding transactions with Verizon, Sumitomo, Shell, and now Itochu.

IP&E is engaged in the petroleum retail, aviation, and commercial businesses in the islands of Micronesia. It runs its retail stations under the Shell brand, and is the sister company of IT&E, the largest wireless company in Micronesia, and the only company



Delgado

to offer 3G services in Guam, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Sumitomo Corp. of Japan, another large Japanese trading company, and also amongst the world's 250 largest, is Prospector's partner with a 25-percent stake in IT&E.

Delgado added, "IP&E is also proud to welcome the following newly appointed independent board of directors to the organization:

Joaquin P. L. G. Cook, Bank of Guam credit officer and board member; Lee Weber, former publisher *Pacific Daily News*; Eli Santiago, former vice president Shell retail sales and operations East; attorney Avelino Cruz, former director Petron Petroleum Philippines.

"Our independent board of directors will play an important role in our planning and business development in the months and years to come," said Delgado. (PR)

Economy recovering, but recession's shadow is long

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Great Recession has been over for nearly a year and a half, and the economy is slowly growing again. But many of the drastic changes that Americans made in how they spend money have endured—and may be here to stay, some economists think. In a three-part series, The Associated Press examines the state of the American consumer.

NEW YORK (AP)—Layaway, once the province of the poor, has gone mainstream. At the Mall of America in Minnesota, shoppers dart in for just one or two things. In New York, socialites do the unthinkable: They wear the same ball gown twice.

During the Great Recession, people made drastic changes in how they spent their money. They stopped treating credit cards as cash. They learned to save and learned to wait.

Now the recession is over, at least technically, and the economy is growing again, at least a little. But many changes in spending habits that most Americans first saw as temporary have taken hold, perhaps for good, some economists say.

This is the reality of the new American consumer—focused, cautious and tactical.

In Jacksonville, Fla., Bernie Decelles and his wife both have jobs and own their home. They recognize that the economy is still fragile, though, and that they work in industries still struggling. They scrutinize every purchase they make.

"It used to be if we saw something, and liked it, we bought it," says Decelles, a salesman for a company that makes storage equipment. "Nowadays, no way."

In dozens of interviews nationwide with shoppers, retailers, manufacturers, economists and analysts, The Associated Press identified key changes in consumer behavior that have endured after the recession. They include:

■ Americans are buying brands and shopping at stores that they shunned before. They are trying more store-brand products for things like detergent and beer. Goodwill and consignment shops are attracting customers across the income spectrum. And people are putting big-ticket items on layaway rather than whipping out charge cards.

■ Consumers are taking a surgical approach to shopping, buying only what they need, when they need it. Pantries are no longer filled with weeks' worth of food, nor closets with clothes bought seasons in advance.



In this Oct. 14, 2010 photo, shoppers go into a Goodwill store in Paramus, N.J. During the Great Recession, people made drastic changes in how they spent their money. They stopped treating credit cards as cash. They learned to save and learned to wait. AP

Shoppers are visiting fewer stores, both traditional and online, and getting only what's on their shopping list.

■ The wealthy are spending again, but their behavior is much like everyone else. They are buying more timeless and classic goods: watches and handbags that won't go out of style quickly. They are even—gasp!—recycling some of their most expensive clothes and wearing them twice.

These behavioral shifts aren't at the extremes of the Great Depression, which produced changes so drastic that many who lived through it adopted frugality as a lifelong habit.

Still, some experts say the changes from the recession of 2007, 2008 and 2009 could last.

"This was a massive cultural event for our society," says John Gerzema, a branding executive at marketing and advertising firm Young & Rubicam and co-author of a new book about the changing ways we spend money. "Eighty percent of Americans were born after World War II, so essentially this is our Depression."

The impact is hard to overstate. Consumer spending represents 70 per-

cent of economic activity. Every business feels the pullback in some way, and it's more pronounced for those that sell things directly to people.

The new patterns of spending represent a radical turn from the boom years of the last decade. Americans up and down the income ladder piled on credit-card debt and used their homes as ATMs by taking out home-equity loans to pay for third cars, clothes and far-flung vacations.

During that time, the savings rate plunged to nearly zero. Americans accumulated debts that far exceeded their incomes. Household debt, including obligations for mortgages and credit cards, rose to about 140 percent of disposable income, double what it was before the boom years.

Credit was easy, and money seemed readily available. Until it wasn't.

"We saw a period of consumption that was unusual and unstable," says Jarrett Paschel, vice president of strategy and innovation at The Hartman Group, a consumer research firm in Bellevue, Wash.

A plunge in housing prices set off the economy's slump. Most Ameri-

cans were left financially stressed in some way. Millions of people abandoned all but the necessities; for some, the necessities became luxuries.

The worst recession since the Depression ended in June 2009, according to the National Bureau of Economic Research, a group of academic economists that officially declares the starts and ends of recessions.

Americans' psyche hasn't recovered. An index of consumer confidence from The Conference Board has been in a tight range from the high 40s to high 50s. A reading of 90 indicates a healthy economy, and that level has not been seen since December 2007, the month the recession began.

U.S. households lost 17 percent of their wealth over in the past three years, more than \$10 trillion, according to the Federal Reserve. The labor market remains in shambles, with nearly one in 10 Americans unemployed. One in six Americans now receives some form of government assistance, including food stamps and extended jobless benefits.

You may not see soup lines, but only because "the soup lines are in the mail," says David Rosenberg, chief

economist and investment strategist at the Toronto-based money management firm Gluskin Sheff.

This stressful economic climate isn't just affecting Americans who are struggling to get by. Those who are more fortunate also have a new approach to spending.

Before the financial meltdown, philanthropist and socialite Allison Weiss Brady didn't think twice about dropping \$20,000 each season on posh accessories. One prized possession she bought at the height of the boom? A \$4,950 Fendi lizard handbag.

Brady still springs for luxury labels like Chanel, but she's snubbing the "it" handbags in favor of clothes and accessories that have staying power beyond a season.

She won't buy a new dress for every occasion, and will be wearing a Lanvin gown bought for a charity event last year to a few parties this year. And for the first time, she bought a peach-colored Chanel bag at a second-hand store, saving \$2,000.

"I do think my mentality is more need-based now," says Brady, who lives in Florida and is a vice president of marketing for Florida Dental Benefits, a dental insurance company. "Am I going to show up with a new pair of diamond earrings every time I go to a ball? That's not happening." Brady is also buying more items at charity auctions—not only to save but to give to others.

Tempered spending by Americans of most income levels means the economic recovery is having a harder time gaining steam. Rosenberg says that at this point of the economic cycle—two years and 11 months since the recession began—things should be much better.

Retail sales are off by 2.6 percent since the recession began in December 2007. That's a stark contrast to the last 60 years. At this stage in an economic recovery, retail sales on average were up 25 percent, according to Gluskin Sheff. Retail sales include food, autos, clothing, furniture and electronics.

Decelles, of Jacksonville, acknowledges his spending was more careless a few years back. Saving was barely on the radar. Now he eats out far less, doesn't entertain much and spends little time shopping.

"Things certainly feel a lot different now," he says, "than they did back then."

Nation

Republicans in charge take aim at health overhaul

WASHINGTON (AP)—Resurgent Republicans rallied Sunday behind an agenda based on unwavering opposition to the Obama White House and federal spending, laying the groundwork for gridlock until their 2012 goal: a new president, a “better Senate” and ridding the country of that demonized health care law.

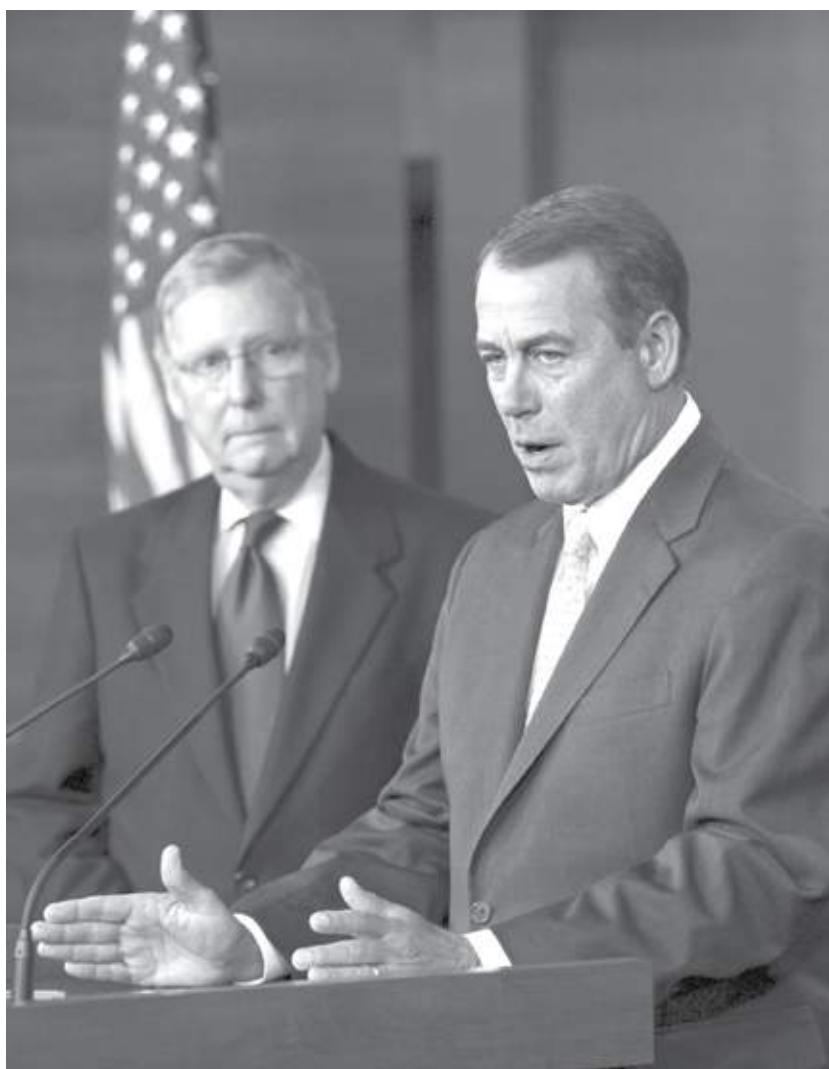
Republicans said they were willing to work with President Barack Obama but also signaled it would be only on their terms. With control of the White House and the Senate, Democrats showed no sign they were conceding the final two years of Obama’s term to Republican lawmakers who claimed the majority in the House.

“I think this week’s election was a historic rejection of American liberalism and the Obama and Pelosi agenda,” said Rep. Mike Pence, the Indiana Republican who is stepping down from his post in GOP leadership. “The American people are tired of the borrowing, the spending, the bailouts, the takeovers.”

Voters on Tuesday punished Democrats from New Hampshire to California, giving Republicans at least 60 new seats in the House. Republicans picked up 10 governorships; the GOP also gained control of 19 state legislative chambers and now holds the highest level of state legislative seats since 1928.

“It was a very rough week, there’s no sugarcoating that,” said Rep. Chris Van Hollen, D-Md., who led the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

In the days since the election, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., has announced her intention to remain as party leader and has yet to draw any challengers. But a race looms between two veteran members of the leadership



In this photo taken Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2010, House Republican leader John Boehner of Ohio, right, with Republican Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky., speaks at a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington.

for the second-ranking spot in the party.

Rep. James Clyburn of South Carolina, the whip, already has announced his intention to run, and reinforced his decision with a letter Sunday evening asking fellow Democrats for their support.

Rep. Steny Hoyer of Maryland, the current majority leader, has yet to make

a formal announcement, but his office on Sunday circulated a letter signed by 30 rank-and-file Democrats endorsing him for the post. They included liberals as well as moderates, but no members of the Congressional Black Caucus, signaling Hoyer is conceding their votes to Clyburn, the highest-ranking African-American in the House.

“I don’t see any sign of the president retreating from his principles, but I do see his willingness to reach out, and wherever reasonable and in the inter-

VP Biden pledges unwavering support for Israel

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—After meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Vice President Joe Biden told Jewish groups on Sunday that the U.S. under the Obama administration remains a steadfast and unwavering ally to Israel. Biden met for about an hour with Netanyahu to discuss the Mideast peace negotiations, a move seen as a possible sign of movement for the troubled diplomatic process between Israel and the Palestinians. The peace talks broke down in late September over renewed Israeli settlement construction in the West Bank.

Netanyahu was in New Orleans to speak Monday to the general assembly of the Jewish Federation of North America, which is meeting for three days. In a speech that drew enthusiastic applause from the assembly, Biden repeatedly stressed that the Obama administration backs Israel.

He said the Obama White House “represents an unbroken chain in American leaders who have understood this critical strategic relationship” between the two countries.

wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“This is not a social thing. This is combat effectiveness,” Gen. James Amos said.

That hesitation could be enough to give senators permission not to act, activists fear.

The House has passed legislation repealing “don’t ask, don’t tell,” but it has not yet seen a vote in the full Senate, where Democrats don’t have the votes to overcome a Republican filibuster. Democratic leaders say they are trying to reach a deal across the aisle now that Election Day has passed.

“The Senate should call up the defense bill reported out of committee and pass it before it goes home for the year,” said Aubrey Sarvis, executive director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network. “If the president, Majority Leader Reid, Secretary Gates and a handful of Republican senators are committed to passing the comprehensive defense bill, there is ample time to do so.”

Gay activists worry the repeal could be stripped from the bill that funds the Pentagon.



Gates

“We will not yield a single inch,” he said.

Biden did not detail what he and Netanyahu talked about. But he did say Netanyahu agreed that there was “no substitute for direct face-to-face negotiations leading eventually to states where two peoples are secure: A Jewish state and a viable, independent state of Palestine.”

And he described past differences between the U.S. and Israel as only “tactical in nature, never fundamental.”

The vice president said the Mideast’s genuine threats come from Iran and he pledged to defend Israel from that country.

And although the Obama administration remains open to diplomacy with Iran, the U.S. had backed sanctions against the country and would work to keep it from acquiring nuclear weapons, Biden said.

Biden also spoke out against any effort to “delegitimize Israel.” He said any effort seeking to take away Israel’s right to existence would be met with “unshakable resistance from the United States.”

Election results ELECTION 2010

As of 9:30 a.m. Nov. 5

GOP Dems

Senate	23	13
Won	0	0
No election this cycle**	23	38
TOTAL (provisional)	46	51

*GOP write-in candidate believed leading Alaska race

**2 independents have no elections this cycle

House	239	187
Won	4	5
No election this cycle	6	7
TOTAL (provisional)	29	20

Governors	23	10
Won***	0	3
No election this cycle	6	7
TOTAL (provisional)	29	20

***Independent wins R.I. governorship

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ACROSS THE NATION

9/11 workers face deadline for health settlement

NEW YORK (AP)—Thousands of laborers, police officers and firefighters suing New York City over their exposure to toxic World Trade Center dust have until Monday to decide whether to join a legal settlement that could ultimately pay them as much as \$815 million. More than 10,000 people have sued the city and a long list of companies that handled the massive cleanup of lower Manhattan after the 9/11 attacks. Many claim to be suffering from illnesses caused by inhaling the pulverized remnants of the twin towers. Their lawsuits blame the government and its contractors for failing to provide proper equipment to protect their lungs. The vast bulk of the litigation could be over on Monday.

No sentence yet in Conn. home invasion murders

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP)—A Connecticut jury has ended a third day of deliberations without deciding a sentence for a man convicted of killing a woman and her two daughters in their suburban home in which the girls were tied to their beds, doused in gasoline and left to die in a fire. Steven Hayes was found guilty last month of killing Jennifer Hawke-Petit and her daughters—17-year-old Hayley and 11-year-old Michaela—in 2007 in Cheshire. Jurors are to return Monday to deliberate on a life sentence or the death penalty for Hayes. His lawyers have argued that he should be spared the death penalty because his mental capacity was significantly impaired.

Nevada Walmart evacuated over suspicious device

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Authorities say they have found what looks like a hand grenade inside a knapsack dropped by a gunman at a Las Vegas-area Walmart. A Las Vegas fire spokesman says the knapsack was secured by a bomb-squad, but investigators weren’t immediately able to determine Sunday if the object inside was a real or fake hand grenade. Metro Lt. Steve Herpolsheimer told the Las Vegas Sun the incident began Saturday when the Henderson store refused to cash a man’s check. A guard followed him outside where the man allegedly struck the guard with a gun and fled, dropping the bag.

Mich. Lottery: 1 winner in \$128M Powerball jackpot

HIGHLAND PARK, Mich. (AP)—A lottery ticket purchased at a Detroit-area store is the sole winner of the nearly \$129 million Powerball jackpot. Michigan Lottery officials announced Sunday that the winner of the \$128.6 million prize bought the lucky ticket ahead of Saturday’s drawing in Highland Park, an economically depressed enclave of Detroit. The winner’s name isn’t yet known. Calls to the store rang unanswered Sunday.

Asia

Slim hope for change in 1st Myanmar vote since '90

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's secretive military-ruled government gave no sign Monday of when results from the country's first election in two decades would be released, though it's almost certain power will remain in the hands of the junta and its political proxies.

What's unclear is whether the vote marks a small step toward democratic rule. While most observers have rejected the poll as a sham engineered to solidify military control, even some critics say having a parliament for the first time in 22 years could provide an opening for eventual change.

There was little doubt that the junta-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party would emerge with an enormous share of the parliamentary seats from Sunday's poll, despite widespread popular opposition to 48 years of military rule. It fielded 1,112 candidates for the 1,159 seats in the two-house national parliament and 14 regional parliaments, while the largest anti-government party, the National Democratic Force, contested just 164 spots.

Detained Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, whose party won a landslide victory in the last elections in 1990 but was barred from taking office, urged a boycott of the vote. Hundreds of potential opposition candidates were either in prison or, like Suu Kyi, under house arrest.

Although the balloting passed peacefully in most parts of the country, anti-government rebels clashed with government troops in the border town of Myawaddy.

Khin Ohmar, a spokeswoman for Burma Partnership, said a faction of the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army, seized the

town's police station and post office Sunday. The group sides with the regime, but a faction has split off and along with other Karen rebels is fighting the central government.

An Associated Press photographer said clashes continued Monday, with bullets landing on the Thai side of the frontier and people fleeing across the Moei River into Thailand.

The military has ruled Myanmar since 1962, when it was known as Burma. Decades of human rights abuses and mistreatment of its ethnic minorities have turned the Southeast Asian nation into a diplomatic outcast. The junta has squandered Myanmar's vast natural resources through economic mismanagement and found itself allied with international pariahs like North Korea.

While the vote was widely condemned in the Western world, it was met with virtual silence by Myanmar's chief ally, China, and economic partners in India and Southeast Asia.

Many voters said they wanted to cast their votes against the junta's politicians.

"I cannot stay home and do nothing," said Yi Yi, a 45-year-old computer technician in Yangon. "I have to go out and vote against USDP. That's how I will defy them (the junta)."

Voter turnout appeared light at many polling stations in Yangon, the country's largest city. Some residents said they were staying home as rumors circulated that bombs would explode.

By late Sunday night, some of the opposition politicians who took part in the elections were expressing dismay at what they called widespread cheating.

The junta and its proxy party "are so shameless in their utter craving for power that they bra-

zenly rig votes with complete disregard for the people and the credibility of the election," said Khin Maung Swe, a top official

with the National Democratic Force. "They are desperately robbing votes."

Several parties say many

voters were already strong-armed into casting ballots for the junta's proxy party in a system of advance voting.

Khin Maung Swe said there were also problems with voter rolls and ballot counting, though he gave no details.

It was not clear when full results would be announced—officials would only say they would come "in time." And no matter the election results, the constitution sets aside 25 percent of parliamentary seats for military appointees.

Soe Aung, deputy secretary of the Thailand-based Forum for Democracy in Burma, called on the international community not to recognize the election results "because this is a sham election" that will create "rubber-stamp" parliament for the military.

Such criticism was echoed internationally.

A statement from President Barack Obama, who is on a tour of Asia, said the elections were "neither free nor fair, and failed to meet any of the internationally accepted standards associated with legitimate elections."



In this photo taken during a poll monitoring tour for Myanmar journalists and foreign correspondents, an unidentified official of the election commission counts votes at a polling station Sunday, Nov. 7, 2010, in Yangon, Myanmar.

Many flee Indonesia volcano amid fears of eruption

MOUNT MERAPI, Indonesia (AP)—Frightened residents fled a bustling city of 400,000 at the foot of Indonesia's rumbling volcano Monday, cramming onto trains, buses and rented vehicles as authorities warned Mount Merapi could erupt again at any time.

A mass burial late Sunday for many of the 141 people killed in the last two weeks served as a reminder of the mountain's devastating power that culminated in its deadliest blast in 80 years that sent hot clouds of gas, rocks and debris avalanching down its slopes.

"My parents have been calling ... saying 'You have to get out of there! You have to come

home!'" said Linda Ervina, a 21-year-old history student who was waiting with friends at a train station in the university town of Yogyakarta, 20 miles (30 kilometers) away.

After failing to get tickets, they rented a minibus with other classmates.

"It feels like that movie '2012,'" said her 22-year-old friend, Paulina Setin. "Like a disaster in a movie."

Concerns about airborne ash after Friday's massive eruption prompted many international airlines to cancel flights to the capital, Jakarta, just days before President Barack

Obama's planned trip to Indonesia—his second stop in a 10-day Asian tour.

All were flying again Monday, and White House officials said Obama was still scheduled to touch down on Tuesday.

Merapi, one of the world's most active volcanoes, has erupted many times in the last century, killing more than 1,400. But Friday was the mountain's deadliest day since 1930, with nearly 100 lives lost.

Islam mandates that the dead be buried quickly, so authorities gave relatives three days to identify their loved ones. To speed up the process, most

families chose to have their relatives interred in a mass grave—a common practice in Indonesia following a disaster.

One by one the bodies—some too charred to be identified—were lowered into a massive trench in the shadow of the volcano.

Merapi was still issuing explosive roars Monday as it shot clouds of gas and debris up to 3,000 feet (1 kilometer) in the air as ash and pyroclastic flows poured down its slopes.

"Based on what we're seeing now, it could erupt again any time," said Surono, a state volcanologist.

Qantas CEO: Oil leaks in 3 engines of its A380s

SYDNEY (AP)—Tests have uncovered oil leaks in three Rolls-Royce engines on Qantas' grounded Airbus A380s, the airline's CEO said Monday, as engineers tried to zero in on the cause of an engine failure on board one of the carrier's super-jumbo jets last week.

Australia's national carrier grounded its six double-decker A380s, the world's newest and largest airliner, after an engine burst minutes into a flight from Singapore to Sydney last week, scattering debris over Indonesia's Batam island. The plane made a safe emergency landing in Singapore.

Engineers conducted eight hours of extensive checks on each engine over the weekend.

On Monday, CEO Alan Joyce said engineers have discovered oil leaks in the turbine area of three engines on three different A380s.

"The oil leaks were beyond

normal tolerances," Joyce told reporters. "So Rolls-Royce and our engineers have looked at what we have gathered as an accepted level and they have passed that threshold."

"All of these engines are new engines on a new aircraft type," he added. "The engines are not performing to the parameters that you would expect with this."

Because of that, he said, all of the airline's A380s will be grounded for at least an additional 72 hours.

"We are not going to take any risks whatsoever," Joyce said. "We want to make sure we have a 100 percent safe operation."

All three affected engines have been removed from the planes for further testing, and will be replaced with spare engines the airline has on hand, Joyce said.

"As a consequence, it's now narrowing our focus on that issue," he said.

Lufthansa and Singapore Airlines, the other airlines that fly A380s fitted with Rolls-Royce's Trent 900 engines, also briefly grounded their planes last week but resumed services after completing checks.

The Qantas engineers are working with Rolls-Royce, who manufactured and maintains the engines, as well as Airbus.

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau, which is leading an international investigation into the blowout on the A380, appealed for help from residents of Indonesia's Batam island to find a missing piece of a turbine disc.

The island was scattered with debris last Thursday when one of the A380's four engines failed minutes into a flight to Sydney, with 466 people aboard. The engine was quickly shut down and the plane returned to Singapore and safely made an emergency landing.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Pakistan says India rejected peace talks

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's president has accused India of rejecting what he termed peace overtures made earlier this year, a sign of how far apart the neighboring countries remain two years after relations crumbled in the wake of the Mumbai terror attacks. Asif Ali Zardari made the comments late Sunday just hours after President Barack Obama urged the two nations to resolve their differences through dialogue. Obama was speaking to students in Mumbai, where he was on the second day of a four-day visit to India.

Japanese authorities investigate boat video leak

TOKYO (AP)—Authorities launched a criminal investigation Monday into the leak of a video of a collision between Japanese coast guard vessels and a Chinese fishing boat that appeared on the Internet and raised concerns of renewed Japan-China tensions. The video, which appeared on YouTube on Friday, shows footage taken Sept. 7 of the collision near a group of disputed islands claimed by both Japan and

China in the East China Sea. The run-in sparked a high-level political rift between the two countries. The coast guard requested that Tokyo prosecutors and police investigate to determine if the video was leaked by a government employee in violation of criminal codes. The video is also evidence in a continuing case against the captain of the Chinese fishing vessel, and such evidence is not released to the public.

Taiwanese resisting kidnappers in Philippines shot

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Taiwanese man was shot and wounded as he fought off kidnappers in the southern Philippines, days after gunmen freed another trader when their getaway car ran out of gasoline, police said Monday. Jung Yeh Lai, 30, was recuperating in a hospital in Zamboanga city under police guard after he was wounded by one of three gunmen who posed as customers then tried to drag him outside the office of his import-export business Saturday, said police regional director Edwin Corvera. The attackers fled in a waiting speed boat, he said.

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reporters. "So Rolls-Royce and our engineers have looked at what we have gathered as an accepted level and they have passed that threshold."

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World

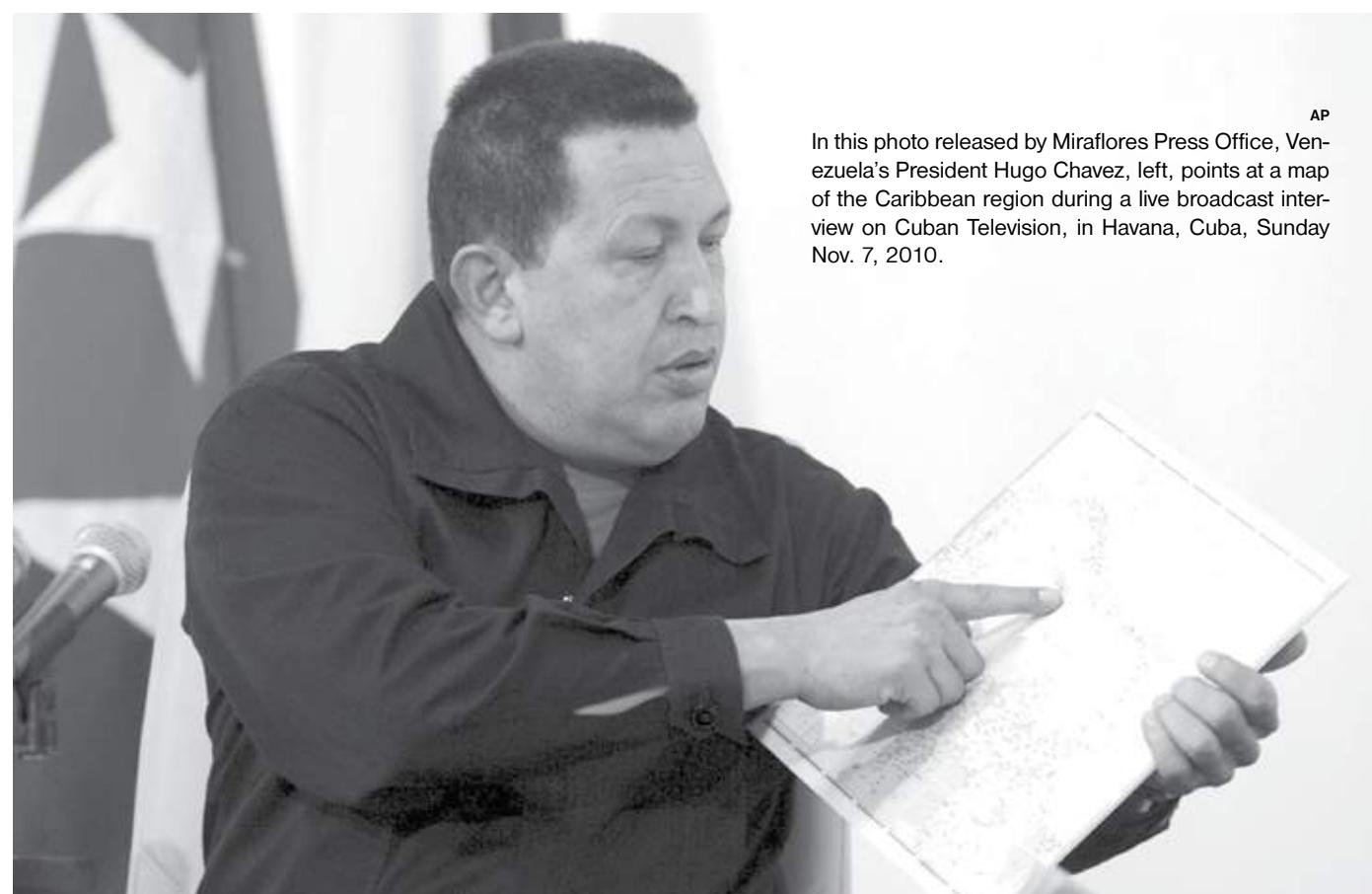
Hugo Chavez defends state takeovers of apartments

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Facing a wave of criticism from business leaders, President Hugo Chavez is defending his order for government officials to seize control of residential complexes.

Chavez promised Sunday to crack down on construction and real estate companies that he accused of unjustly boosting prices, which he labeled “housing fraud.”

The president, a self-proclaimed revolutionary who idolizes Cuba’s Fidel Castro and is currently on a visit to Havana, called his decision last week to order the expropriation of six residential complexes and “the temporary occupation” of eight gated communities in Caracas and other cities “an act of justice.”

Venezuela’s consumer protection agency and state prosecutors are investigating complaints that construction companies and real estate firms are illegally charging buyers high interest on unfinished apartments, even though the buyers settled on a price years ago and made down payments.



In this photo released by Miraflores Press Office, Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez, left, points at a map of the Caribbean region during a live broadcast interview on Cuban Television, in Havana, Cuba, Sunday Nov. 7, 2010.

support behind the company responsible for building the gated community, saying it never stopped construction as government inspectors have alleged.

“We strongly reject the expropriation measure,” the statement said. “We are content with the construction company’s development of the project.”

Critics of the expropriations and temporary state takeovers, including Chavez’s political opponents and Venezuela’s largest business chamber, warn the government’s measures will scare off investors and aggravate the country’s housing deficit.

More than 1 million of Venezuela’s estimated 28 million inhabitants do not have adequate housing while millions more live in dangerous, labyrinth-like slums ringing the South American nation’s cities.

The government plans to invest \$1.5 billion next year to build homes for poor and middle-class families, Chavez announced Sunday.

Opposition politician Julio Borges accused Chavez on Sunday of trampling private-property rights and steering Venezuela toward Cuba-style communism.

Borges told a news conference that Venezuelans don’t want to live in “a country of slaves, where the government is the owner of everything and the people aren’t owners of anything.”

“We want a country of property owners,” he said.

In a telephone interview with state television from Havana on Sunday, Chavez alleged that some construction and real estate firms are funding opposition groups. He did not provide details.

20 killed over weekend in Mexican border city

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP)—At least 20 people were killed in drug-gang violence over the weekend in this northern Mexican border city, including seven found dead outside one house.

The seven men were believed to have been at a family party when they were gunned down Saturday night, said Arturo Sandoval, a spokesman for the attorney general’s office in Chihuahua state, where Ciudad Juarez is located. Five were found dead in a car, and the other two were shot at the entrance of the home.

There have been several such massacres in Ciudad Juarez, a city held hostage by a nearly three-year turf battle between the Juarez and Sinaloa cartels.

Few residents now venture out to bars and restaurants. And like those attacked on Saturday, others have discovered that they aren’t even safe in their own homes: Last month, gunmen

stormed two neighboring houses and massacred more than a dozen young people attending a party for a 15-year-old boy.

Ciudad Juarez, across the border from El Paso, Texas, has become one of the world’s deadliest cities in the time that the two cartels have been fighting. More than 6,500 people have been killed since the start of 2008.

But the violence doesn’t stop there. In the southern city of Oaxaca, police found a human head in a gift-wrapped box left Saturday night on the side of a cliff popular for its view of the picturesque colonial center.

Reporters at the scene saw a threatening message left with the head signed, “the last letter Z,” an apparent reference to the Zetas drug gang.

The gruesome find came a week after two young men who had been involved in violent university protests and other conflicts were gunned

down in the middle of the day in a public plaza.

An e-mail purportedly from the Zetas claimed responsibility for those slayings and said that the two were killed for falsely representing themselves as members of the gang.

Oaxaca state Attorney General Maria de la Luz Candelaria Chinas said the e-mail is suspected to be fake, although she said authorities had not ruled out the possibility that the Zetas sent it.

Mexican government officials describe the Zetas—former hit men for the Gulf cartel who became independent this year—as a sort of franchise with units across the country. But officials say some of those cells are copycats using the Zetas name to intimidate extortion and kidnap victims.

The Zetas have grown in power over the past decade, and experts warn their clout could grow following the death Fri-

day night of one of the gang’s major enemies, Gulf cartel leader Antonio Ezequiel Cardenas Guillen. The kingpin, known as “Tony Tormento” or “Tony the Storm,” was killed in a shootout with marines.

Although there have been some beheadings in recent years, cartel-style violence is rare in Oaxaca, the capital of the southern state by the same name, especially compared to northern Mexico or the central Pacific coast.

Apartments owners from one of the expropriated complexes—El Encantado Humboldt—issued a statement over the weekend criticizing the state takeover and throwing their

or fear the measure could encourage pro-Chavez squatters to invade buildings still under construction. Others applaud the measure, saying it has protected them from unscrupulous business practices.

In some mostly middle-class residential complexes, groups of neighbors have implemented security measures aimed at keeping squatters out, such as organizing around-the-clock surveillance teams and putting a siren at entrances to be sounded in case of emergency.

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WORLD BRIEFS

German riot police clash with anti-nuke protesters

DANNENBERG, Germany (AP)—Activists rappelled down from a high bridge, broke through police lines and chained themselves to German train tracks Sunday, trying to halt a shipment of nuclear waste as they protested Chancellor Angela Merkel’s plans to keep using nuclear energy. The train, which set off Friday from a reprocessing plant in France, slowly headed toward the northern town of Dannenberg, where containers carrying 123 tons of reprocessed nuclear waste were to be loaded onto trucks for the final leg of their journey to a disputed storage site at Gorleben. Riot police tried to stop up to 4,000 protesters making their way through the woods onto the tracks near Dannenberg ahead of the nuclear waste train.

Police used water cannons and pepper spray and wrestled with activists to break up the protest, but some still reached the rail line.

Guinea vote goes ahead as ethnic tensions simmer

CONAKRY, Guinea (AP)—Guineans cast their ballot Sunday in a vote that has been delayed multiple times following violent ethnic clashes

that pitted the nation’s two largest ethnic groups against each other. The ethnic divide between supporters of rival candidates Cellou Dalein Diallo and Alpha Conde has overshadowed what was supposed to be a historic ballot for the African nation of 10 million, which has never had a change of power through an election considered free and fair. Election observers said voting was calm and that they had recorded only minor problems, including insufficient ballots in some precincts, said National Independent Electoral Commission President Siaka Toumani Sangare.

Deadline gone, Cuban dissident vows hunger strike

HAVANA (AP)—A prominent Cuban dissident is vowing to begin a hunger strike Monday to pressure the government to free the last 13 political prisoners jailed in a 2003 crackdown on dissent, after a midnight deadline for the men’s release passed without any news of their fate. Guillermo Farinas, who won Europe’s Sakharov human rights prize in October after staging a 134-day hunger strike in support of the prisoners, has told The Associated Press he will stop eating Monday if the remaining dissidents are not in their homes.

Netanyahu says Iran must fear military strike

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel’s prime minister has told U.S. Vice President Joe Biden that Iran must be made to fear a military strike against its nuclear program, Israeli media reported Monday—a departure from the Israeli leader’s previous emphasis on using diplomacy to curb Tehran’s nuclear ambitions.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, meeting with Biden in New Orleans, said that although sanctions have hurt Iran, Tehran

will be determined to produce nuclear weapons unless it thinks a military strike is a real option, the media reported, citing unidentified Israeli officials.

But U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates, speaking in Australia on Monday, said military action against Iran remains an option but it is not the only way to stop it from building a nuclear bomb.

Israel sees Iran as its fiercest threat because of its nuclear program, its ballistic missiles capable of hitting the Jewish state and Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s repeated references to Israel’s destruction.

Focus

Desegregation offers lessons for gay troops debate

RUSS BYNUM
AP Military Writer

In this Oct., 27, 2010 photo, Thomas J. Woods, 78, holds his graduation photo from the Marine Corps in 1951 in his home in Fayetteville, Ga.

AP

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP)—Thomas J. Woods joined the military after graduating from an all-black high school in 1950, when Jim Crow laws forced him to the back of buses and Savannah shop clerks would greet him with a surly, “What you want, boy?”

But in Marine Corps boot camp and then the front lines of the Korean War, the 18-year old saw the rigid color barriers of civilian life smashed in front of him as the military followed a mandate to end segregation of its ranks. That major social change, carried out in wartime, has echoes in today’s debate about whether to end a ban on gays serving openly.

On his first day of training, as the only black recruit among 42, Woods was stunned when an instructor ordered his platoon to treat him as an equal. They all wore green, the instructor barked, and they’d all bleed red.

“I said, ‘I don’t believe this,’” recalls Woods, 78, a retired postal worker in Fayetteville, Ga. “It gave me a lot of pride, that you are somebody. When you go in there, you think you’re nothing. Blacks were always last at everything.”

The stories of Woods and other black veterans who served among the military’s first desegregated units during the Korean conflict may bear lessons at a time when Americans are debating an end to “don’t ask, don’t tell.” The 1993 policy that bars gays from serving openly in uniform has been challenged by a federal court and President Barack Obama and is under review by the Pentagon.

Though the military may now seem to lag behind America’s acceptance of gays in civilian life, the armed forces led the charge in ending racial segregation in the 1940s and ‘50s.

Efforts to integrate the ranks began right after World War II, culminating with President Harry S. Truman signing a 1948 executive order banning racial discrimination in the military.

The job wasn’t finished until the Defense De-

partment disbanded its last all-black units in 1954. Still, that was at a time when the modern civil rights movement was just building momentum. Five months earlier, the Supreme Court had issued its landmark ruling ordering an end to segregation in America’s public schools. Bus boycotts in Montgomery, Ala., began the following year.

In other words, the military succeeded with desegregation when a huge proportion of Americans remained hostile to the idea of blacks and whites sharing schools, lunch counters and water fountains—or barracks and foxholes.

“This was a huge change forced upon the American population coming of age,” said Steven Schlossman, a history professor at Carnegie Mellon University and co-author of the book “Foxholes and Color Lines: Desegregating the U.S. Armed Forces.” “Its challenge to Jim Crow was enormous and maybe a shock to many young soldiers.”

Blacks served in every U.S. military conflict beginning with the American Revolution, but in separate units that were often poorly trained and ill equipped. White officers were commonly ordered to lead black units as punishment.

Arguments today in favor of keeping the Pentagon’s “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy—that openly serving gays would disrupt morale and erode the cohesion of combat units—echo those used to defend military segregation along racial lines, said Marcus S. Cox, a history professor at The Citadel in Charleston, S.C.

“Many people used that same argument against African-Americans serving in the same units as whites,” said Cox, who teaches black military history to Citadel cadets. “Many people said it’s the end of the military. But the result was there were very few problems, the military ran very efficiently.”

The integration of blacks into all-white units in Korea was so uneventful that white soldiers like Phil McCraney hardly noticed. McCraney, 78, says his Army company of 150 troops had only four or five blacks by the time he returned home in 1951.

“It wasn’t that big a deal I don’t think,” said

McCraney of Bartow, Fla. “We didn’t mistreat them by any chance. But we just didn’t associate with them that much.”

It was the battlefield pressures of war that ultimately pushed the armed forces into full-scale desegregation.

While the Navy had begun integrating crews aboard its warships in 1946, the Army and Marines resisted even after Truman’s 1948 order. They came around only after suffering heavy combat losses in Korea in 1950.

U.S. forces in Korea saw casualties escalating among all-white units faster than they could get replacement troops to the front lines. Commanders realized they could move up troops from black units, who had been relegated to support roles, faster than getting white reinforcements. Some white troops were moved into black units as well.

“Our commander made a very simple statement: When a rifleman comes in with a certain skill, put him where he’s needed,” recalled retired Army Lt. Gen. Julius W. Becton Jr. “We became an integrated regiment.”

Becton, 84, of Springfield, Va., deployed to Korea in the summer of 1950 as a platoon leader in the all-black 3rd Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment. Then a lieutenant who had served in World War II, it wasn’t long before he was commanding white soldiers.

If there was resentment among the white soldiers taking orders from him, Becton insists he never heard it.

“I suspect there may have been some of that, but you don’t have much choice when you’re being shot at,” he said. “I don’t think that white guy from Mississippi or that black guy from New York is going to care too much about who’s giving orders.”

Becton insists it would be naive to deny any racial tension among the ranks. But it wasn’t until Vietnam, when race riots erupted in all four military branches, that the integrated military had to deal with racial unrest.

“Many people used that same argument against African-Americans serving in the same units as whites. Many people said it’s the end of the military. But the result was there were very few problems, the military ran very efficiently.”

Amos Board remembers race relations in the Army being much smoother when he got to Korea in 1952. He was among three black soldiers assigned to a tank crew with a white commander and driver. They’d play cards together, share cookies sent from home and bum cigarettes without regard to skin color.

Board, 78, of Indianapolis suspects the draft helped the Army ensure discipline among its newly integrated troops.

“Guys who’d been drafted wanted to do their two years and get out,” Board said. “They didn’t want any trouble.”

As America debates “don’t ask, don’t tell,” the draft is no longer a factor in the all-volunteer military.

And while America’s still at war in Iraq and Afghanistan, military commanders may not feel the same need for manpower that forced integration in Korea, said Bernard C. Nalty, a retired military historian and author of “Strength for the Fight: A History of Black Americans in the Military.”

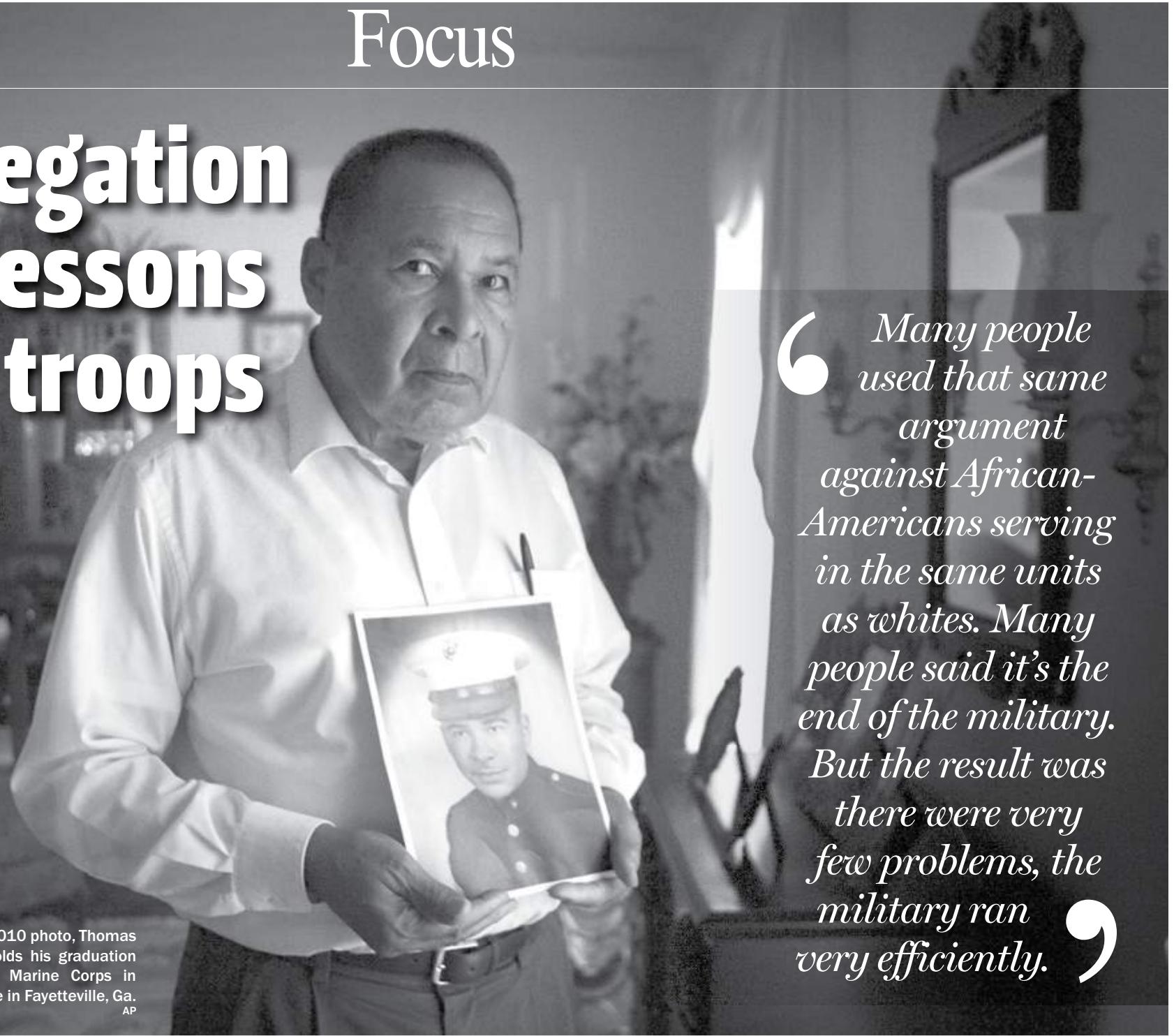
“There may not be the same pressure, and there are people like the commandant of the Marine Corps who may be very much opposed” to gays serving openly, Nalty said. “If someone at the top of a military organization is against something, it may be hard to get around him.”

Cox from The Citadel says that acceptance of gays in uniform challenges ideas about strength and manhood that are entrenched in military culture, more so than the expanding military roles for women since the draft ended in 1973.

For any minority group facing discrimination, Cox said, military service has been seen as a major step toward equality.

That was the case for Woods, who returned from Korea to the U.S. on leave in 1952 after being promoted to sergeant. When Woods got on a bus in Miami, he took a seat up front.

“I sat right behind the driver,” Woods said. “He looked at me, but I stayed because I had my uniform on. I had Uncle Sam backing me up.”



Overdrive

By TROY WOLVERTON
SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

Who knew that electric cars could be fun to drive and practical at the same time?

Those were my impressions last week after test-driving the all-electric Nissan Leaf and the plug-in Chevrolet Volt, two new cars that will reach showroom floors later this year. The Leaf was zippy and feels spacious and fun. The Volt felt like a standard family car updated for the 21st century with high-tech features you can control through a smart phone.

I liked them both but for different reasons, and would consider buying either of them if I were in the market for a car.

The Volt and the Leaf represent the vanguard of a new generation of electric cars, but each has its own take on what that means.

The Leaf is all-electric, which means you never have to worry about burning gasoline or having to deal with the

hybrid, though, where both the gasoline and electric engines can power the car, the Volt's electric engine is the only one connected to the powertrain. Its gasoline engine acts as a generator, creating a charge that powers the electric motor.

That setup gives the Volt far greater range than the Leaf and requires much less time to recharge—as little as three hours with a high-power outlet. So you can take the Volt on trips without having to worry about finding a recharging station.

But the Volt's electric battery will power the car for only the first 40 miles, requiring many drivers to buy and burn gasoline. On longer trips, the benefit of the electric engine will be largely negated because the car will be using the gas engine most of the time.

Neither Chevrolet nor the Environmen-



A Nissan Leaf electric vehicle is on display at Santana Row in San Jose, California, for test-driving, July 26, 2010.

MCT

Volt vs Leaf: Two takes on electric revolution

maintenance issues of a combustion engine, such as changing the oil or replacing the spark plugs or timing belts. The trade off is that it has a range of only 100 miles—less if you drive fast or run the heater or air conditioner, both of which draw power from the battery.

And once you drain the battery, recharging it is not as easy and quick as filling up at a gas station. Instead, you'll typically have to wait eight hours to 20 hours for the batteries to recharge, depending on the type of outlet you use. Recharging can be much quicker—as little as 30 minutes or so to get an 80 percent charge—at one of the relatively few fast-charging stations.

The Volt, on the other hand, is what's called an extended-range electric vehicle. It has a gasoline engine that kicks in after you drain its batteries. Unlike a

Federal Protection Agency has said yet what kind of mileage owners should expect from Volt's gasoline engine. And owners will face many of the same maintenance schedules and costs that they would with a regular gas-powered car.

In contrast, some of the Leaf's shortcomings are new ones for car buyers, and serious enough to cause me doubts about its practicality.

It's all well and good to know that most commutes are under 100 miles. But having a 100-mile limit—and an eight-hour minimum period to recharge—puts severe limits on how you could use such a car. You're not going to be taking road trips in the Leaf. And if you tend to run a lot of errands during the day, that range limit might worry you.

I was also concerned about the Leaf's size, which is about the same as a Honda

Fit. It's a four-door with a small, vertical storage area behind the back seat. That kind of vehicle is great if you're single and without kids, but it's too small to meet the needs of many drivers.

That said, I came away from my test-drive of the Leaf impressed. Despite its small size, it felt roomy and spacious inside—in the front seat, at least. Back-seat passengers will feel cramped for legroom because the batteries are under the rear floorboard, raising the level of your feet. Still, the car has ample headroom and an open cabin.

And it was fun to drive—peppy and nimble, with good acceleration. The instruments are easy to read and let you know how many more miles you can drive before you need to recharge.

Despite its limited range, the Leaf is in some ways more practical than the Volt.

Of course, it costs \$8,000 less upfront.

And although the Leaf's storage area is smaller than the Volt's, it can carry more people because it has a bench seat in back that will fit up to three people. In contrast, the Volt has two bucket seats in back.

The Volt, though, has some of its own advantages. Whereas few people could depend on the Leaf as their only car because of its limited range, the Volt could easily be a primary vehicle, thanks to its backup engine.

The car is also fully integrated with GM's OnStar system. The company is developing a smart-phone application tied into OnStar that will allow users to remotely start and lock the Volt, schedule recharging times and check things like oil and tire pressure.

While the Volt wasn't as peppy or

fun to drive as the Leaf, it handled well and had decent, if somewhat delayed, acceleration. Chevy says it will go from 0 to 60 in 8 seconds or so, which is fast enough for those not in a hurry. The Volt's driver's seat, which is surrounded on three sides by a wraparound console, felt cramped and claustrophobic, but in other aspects the car's interior was nicer than the Leaf's. Rear-seat passengers have plenty of legroom, and unlike with the Leaf, leather seats are an option for the Volt, an important consideration for those of us with kids who spill drinks.

The Volt costs more than the Leaf to buy, but the lease rate is about the same—at least after the initial payment. And leasing may be attractive for those who worry about the potential long-term costs of replacing batteries or who want to be able to cheaply jump into the next generation of electric cars.

And rest assured, many more electric cars are on the way. So if neither the Leaf nor the Volt is a good fit for you, just wait for the more advanced models that are certain to come. I can't wait to plug them in and test them out.

UNDER THE HOOD

If engine weakens, make sure it can breathe

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: My car has begun to lose power above 65-70 mph. I've noticed it also bogs down when I accelerate hard, like when getting on the freeway. It starts OK and runs smoothly at normal speeds. Any idea what could be the cause? —Marta Romano

ANSWER: There are several things that could cause this driveability symptom. Either the engine is starving for fuel, or it can't breathe properly due to an intake or exhaust system restriction. If you had also noticed rough running or sputtering symptoms, we'd also

want to take a look at the ignition system. Does your "check engine" light illuminate? If so, valuable clues await discovery via a scan-tool connection.

A restricted fuel filter is the first thing I would suspect. A dirty filter may pass enough fuel to satisfy lower-speed engine requirements, but it can't deliver as needed when a large volume of fuel is called for. It's easier and more cost-effective to simply renew the filter than to run the tests needed to confirm a fuel-delivery problem. Should repeated filter problems occur, substantial tank contamination is likely, requiring draining and cleaning of the tank.

Inspecting and renewing the air filter is also a good idea, as well as check-

ing for debris in the air intake system, which typically comprises a plastic box and hoses. Over the years, I've discovered a number of odd things that can end up in there.

If fuel- and air-filter replacement doesn't do the trick, diagnostic tests will be needed to check fuel pressure and volume, as well as exhaust system backpressure. Some vehicles—GM and Ford in particular—have convenient fuel-system test fittings, allowing connection to a reasonably priced auto parts store fuel pressure gauge. Most others require a unique fitting only found within an expensive professional fuel-pressure test kit. If fuel pressure or volume fail to meet specifications,

a failing fuel pump or restricted fuel pickup sock within the fuel tank may be the cause.

Excessive exhaust backpressure can be caused by a failed or internally disintegrated catalytic converter or an obstructed tailpipe. Typically, the engine runs acceptably at lower speeds but just can't breathe well enough to run fast. A check of engine vacuum, comparing the readings at idle to higher speed in neutral, can point to breathing problems. Exhaust backpressure also can be directly checked with a gauge attached to a vacated oxygen sensor fitting.

In many cases, a failed catalytic converter can also be identified by smacking it several times with a rubber mallet. If a rattle is heard, this indicates break-up of the converter's internal substrate, a ceramic honeycomb plated with precious metals. Should a

failed catalytic converter be identified, one should diligently seek and correct the cause of failure—usually an engine misfire or fuel-mixture fault—in addition to renewing the converter.

Based on your symptoms, I blew past the ignition system, which is of course critical to proper engine performance. In most cases an ignition fault results in choppy or rough running or a no-start condition. Should the above suggestions fail to rectify the problem, a check for the ignition system's available voltage and successful spark delivery to the spark plugs would certainly be a good idea.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him e-mail at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

WT

Life & Style

We played tourist when we alighted on train 1059 from Yanji in Jilin to Shenyang in the next province of Liaoning. Getting on the train was eight times cheaper than getting on the plane, and saving a few ¥uan keeps the pocketbook happy, though now in hindsight, I may have received more than I bargained for.

I took the route going the opposite direction on lunar New Year's Eve early this year when I went to Tumen, Yanbian on an errand on behalf of a client on Saipan. I booked on the sleeper on the night train so I could go horizontal when the body ached for it, and it did, not so much for the wear and tear as it was for the cold; it was the middle of winter. Lunar New Year is a special family time to the Chinese, so there was hardly anyone on the train. The scene outside, with the lavish lights and fireworks, was one to behold. Getting into Yanbian with their traditional carved ice lanterns still graced rural homes to light people's way was a sight out of the pages of *National Geographic*.

This time, we decided to travel daytime so we can see the scenery. The 12-hour journey began early in the morning at 7:30 headed for Shenyang-bei station. I booked a window seat so I could look out of the window all the time without the temptation of lying down to either read or nap.

At first sight, the rail trip was reminiscent of an Air Nigeria flight I took in 1982, from London to Lagos, with the open overhead luggage rack overflowing with all kinds of bags; short of live chickens, the scene was not unlike the ones in my youth on provincial buses plying between Tuguegarao and Manila in northern Luzon.

Duffel bags of all coloration, plastic and cloth, seems to be the preferred luggage of choice. My functional four-piece matching Samsonites (overnighter, school, laptop and camera bags) looked like designers' luggage in comparison.

In a country that popularized the



Dong Bei Trek 4: On No. 1059 train

By JAIME VERGARA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

queue (for the Manchu ponytail as well as the single file line that the Brits imposed on India) the Hans may have gone overboard in protesting the practice against the Qing dynasty, for getting ahead of everyone seems to be the habit now when lining up for anything. At least, once in the Tokyo subway, I saw a lady execute an honoring bow before pushing the person ahead of her so she could have space to stand by the door! In our case, no touch of civility was shown. I wanted to shout, "we all have reserved seats," to the pushing

and shoving crowd but I would not have been understood; English is not the language of the realm.

Then I found out that even with reserved seats, one does not always get what one pays for. I had a window seat that was already occupied when I finally made it to the end of the cabin. A lady was seated at my seat, and when I showed her my ticket, she pulled out her ticket, took mine and gave me hers in exchange. Her gestures indicated that she wanted to trade so she could sit with her husband.

No big deal. I had on occasion been known to have a big heart and this seems to be a small favor I could grant. Save I discovered that my seat was the middle of a three-seat double-sided table, and a young 5-year-old with his grandma sat across me. A burly young man who might have had a few drinks before getting on board, snoozed on the window side.

I was warned not to lose sight of the laptop and camera bags, and squeezed between a drunk and an officious mandarin (he kept flashing an official looking

ID), my sightseeing journey just turned into guarding perceived valuables!

Next cabin was a diner, so as soon as we were moving, I took laptop and camera to brunch. The attendant menacingly squawked me an earful, and when I just smiled and would not budge, she called for a mean looking colleague who tried to physically shoo me out of the caboose. I called for the conductor and a fully uniformed official showed up. She was a trilingual professional with PR skills but English was not one of her forte. But she was efficient; she got her cell phone connected to the main office where someone informed me that unless I was holding a sleeper ticket, I was not allowed at the diner.

I was in an overcrowded section where tickets seemed to have been sold regardless of the availability of seats, so I decided to upgrade for an additional \$12 in *renminbi* (peoples' money) but I only had half the amount in local currency. I had a credit card and US\$. No deal; the train only took ¥uan even after I offered the full \$20, keep the change! Desperate, I showed the attendant a saved copy of the *Saipan Tribune* Opinion page, and the conductress got back on the phone. Not too long after, she showed me a text message on her phone: "Sorry sir, but you have to move back to your seat and order your food there. *That's the way we do it in China!*" (*italics added*).

Grudgingly appreciative of the folks' firmness on where they stood, I moved back to my paid seat, which had been given to an old-looking granny in my absence (she was actually a decade younger than me), and since the aisle had become standing room only (see accompanying photo), I started limbering muscles to a *tai chi* routine!

I stood for eight hours on the modern bullet train from Harbin to Shenyang the year before so I was prepared to do the same on the aisle of train number 1059 for four hours more. I did, fully egalitarian-wise, in the way it is done in China.

Lady Gaga wins big at MTV Europe Music Awards

MADRID (AP)—Lady Gaga won three prizes at this year's MTV Europe Music Awards on Sunday, claiming Best Female, Song, and Pop honors, just a year after taking the plaudits for best new act.

The ceremony converted two of the Spanish capital's most iconic landmarks into glittering venues from which to present its 2010 honors.

Tens of thousands of music fans crowded downtown Puerta de Alcala and Caja Magica to hear 14 separate performers, including acts by Jared Leto and Shakira.

Lady Gaga beamed her acceptance speech from Budapest, Hungary, where she was on tour. She interrupted a live act in the Hungarian capital to convey by video link her delight at the crop of awards which just kept on coming and spotlighted her song "Bad Romance" as the year's best.

Best New Act went to KE\$HA, while the 16-year-old Justin Bieber won the Best Male Artist award, Paramore the



Rihanna performs at the MTV European Music Awards 2010, in Madrid, Sunday, Nov. 7, 2010.

AP

WINNERS' LIST

MADRID (AP)—Winners of the 17th annual MTV Europe Music Awards, presented Sunday:

- **Best Song**—Lady Gaga for "Bad Romance"
- **Best Live Act**—Linkin Park
- **Best European Act**—Marco Mengoni
- **Best New Act**—KE\$HA
- **Best Female**—Lady Gaga
- **Best Male**—Justin Bieber
- **Best Push Artist**—Justin Bieber
- **Best Pop**—Lady Gaga
- **Best Rock**—Thirty Seconds to Mars
- **Best Alternative**—Paramore
- **Best Spanish Singer**—Enrique Iglesias
- **Best Video**—Katy Perry for "California Gurls"
- **Best Hip Hop**—Eminem
- **MTV Global Icon**—Bon Jovi
- **World Stage**—Tokio Hotel

Best Alternative act, and Eminem got the Best Hip Hop award.

The new MTV Global Icon award went to Jon Bon Jovi, who thrilled fans with a live performance of "Shot through the heart" and "You're to blame" at the spectacularly decorated, year-old Caja Magica venue, sometimes used for sports events.

At the center of the Caja Magica hall a brilliantly illuminated hollow cube acted as a focal point for indoor acts while the Puerta de Alcala—once the location of the eastern entrance in the long disappeared city wall—provided an outdoor flavor to the show. Katy Perry got Best Video for "California Gurls" and raised a cheer when she collected the award wearing an ornate, dark outfit.

Presenter Eva Longoria also regaled viewers with a dazzling array of elegant dresses and at one point had the audience in fits of laughter by saying she had discovered her long-lost Spanish relatives in Madrid. She then introduced four statuesque and muscular young men dressed only in underpants bearing the letters "Longoria" at the back. "That's my family, which I'm going to introduce to the girls backstage," she said.



Ferrell's 'Megamind' makes mega debut with \$47.7M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Will Ferrell's plot to take over the weekend box office has succeeded.

Ferrell's animated super-villain comedy "Megamind" debuted as the No. 1 movie with \$47.7 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Along with the voices of Brad Pitt, Tina Fey and Jonah Hill, the DreamWorks Animation release has Ferrell's title character hatching a scheme to fill the void in his life after he finally defeats his superhero nemesis.

Robert Downey Jr. and Zach

In this photo released by Starpix, actor Brad Pitt poses with an unidentified actor in character as "Metro Man" from the movie "Megamind," Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2010 in New York. Pitt stars in the animated film.

Galifianakis' road-trip comedy, "Due Date," opened at a strong No. 2 with \$33.5 million. The Warner Bros. romp features the two stars as mismatched traveling companions who hit the highway from Atlanta to Los Angeles.

Tyler Perry's drama "For Colored Girls," whose ensemble cast features Janet Jackson and Whoopi Goldberg, premiered solidly in third-place with \$20.1 million. The Lionsgate release is based on Ntozake Shange's play "for colored girls who have considered suicide/ when the rainbow is enuf."

While "Megamind" drew big family crowds on Saturday and Sunday, it also was the top draw on Friday, bringing in

1. "Megamind," \$47.7 million.
2. "Due Date," \$33.5 million.
3. "For Colored Girls," \$20.1 million.
4. "Red," \$8.9 million.
5. "Saw 3D," \$8.2 million.
6. "Paranormal Activity 2," \$7.3 million.
7. "Jackass 3D," \$5.1 million.
8. "Hereafter," \$4.02 million.
9. "Secretariat," \$4 million.
10. "The Social Network," \$3.6 million.

large numbers of adults without children, said Anne Globe, head of marketing for DreamWorks Animation.

"For us to be No. 1 on Friday, it showed we did have a lot of appeal to teens, tweens and the date crowd," Globe said.

The three newcomers combined for a \$100 million haul, providing a big weekend for Hollywood, whose revenues have been lagging for most of

the fall season.

The weekend also provided an early jump on the holidays, when big releases include the latest in the "Harry Potter," "Meet the Parents" and "Chronicles of Narnia" franchises.

"Just like the first weekend in May has become the kickoff to the summer season, the first weekend in November has become the start of the holiday movie season," said Hollywood.com analyst Paul Dergarabedian. "Pound for pound, the coming weeks are just as important as the summer movie season."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Monday.

Reba serves as model for young acts' success

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Think of this as the Reba McEntire edition of the Country Music Association Awards.

Country music's most recognizable woman is up for just one award, but she inspired and led the way for the new generation of female talent that swept through nominations this year.

Young singers like Miranda Lambert, Hillary Scott of Lady Antebellum, Taylor Swift and Carrie Underwood admit they owe a debt to stars like Loretta Lynn and Dolly Parton—as do all female country performers. But it was Reba who was front and center during their childhood, pointing the way.

She won the CMA's entertainer of the year in 1986—around the time Lambert turned 3 and Scott was a few months old—and a quarter of a century later at 55, she's still as vibrant and active as ever. She's up for female vocalist of the year Wednesday night and is poised to release her 34th album, "All The Women I Am," the day before.

"I think Reba has really shown what a woman's career should look like," said Lambert, who leads all nominees with nine. "She's just a mogul. She works so hard and she looks better than she ever has and her music's great still, it fits in no matter what."

Mogul might just be the perfect word to describe McEntire. There's been nothing one-dimensional about her career. Her albums come out like clockwork and each is peppered with hit songs she's worked tirelessly to find, listening to thousands of submissions. She is among country music's top touring draws. She's the longtime host of the Academy of Country Music Awards and her surprise hit TV show remains in heavy rotation in syndication. She's even done Broadway. And don't forget her clothing and product lines.

She's created the ideal country music career that everyone is striving for, and it's been that



In this June 11, 2010 file photo, country singer Reba McEntire performs during the CMA Music Festival at LP Field in Nashville, Tenn.

way for as long as Scott remembers. The 26-year-old singer's mother, Linda Davis, was a member of McEntire's band and Scott grew up watching McEntire up close.

"Her presence and what she represents has never wavered for me," said Scott, whose group is up for five awards. "It's still like: She is Reba. She's accomplished so much and she's succeeded in every endeavor she's went for. I think what I've learned from her, when she wants to do something and she wants to go for it, she goes for it. She puts her whole heart and soul and effort into it."

One of the highlights of Scott's young career was watching McEntire's reaction to Lady A's performance on the CMA Awards last year.

"I say this a lot, but one thing that's really important to me is making her proud," Scott said. "And whenever we were watching the CMAs after our perfor-

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Megamind

Friday 4:00 7:00 9:30
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Monday & Tuesday 4:00 7:00
Wednesday 4:00 7:00 9:30
Thursday 1:00 4:00 7:00

Will Farrell, Tina Fey

Comedy, Children's/family • Rated PG

Synopsis

DreamWorks Animation presents this satirical take on the superhero genre focusing on a down-and-out super villain who has to learn how to get his groove back when he's left without an arch nemesis in this comedy from directors Cameron Hood and Kyle Jefferson.



Due Date

Friday 4:20 7:20 9:40
Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:40
Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20
Monday & Tuesday 4:20 7:20
Wednesday 4:20 7:20 9:40
Thursday 1:20 4:20 7:20

Robert Downey, Jr., Zach Galifianakis

Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis

Director Todd Phillips re-teams with his break-out Hangover star Zach Galifianakis for this road movie concerning a soon-to-be father (played by Robert Downey Jr.) and his cross-country trip to make it back in time for his baby's birth—with the only roadblock being the dubious passenger (Galifianakis) who's along for the ride. Michelle Monaghan and Jamie Foxx co-star in the Warner Bros./Legendary Pictures production.



The Social Network

Friday 4:25 7:25 9:55
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:55
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Monday & Tuesday 4:25 7:25
Wednesday 4:25 7:25 9:55
Thursday 1:25 4:25 7:25

Jesse Eisenberg, Justin Timberlake

Drama • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

The story behind the massive social networking site Facebook gets the big-screen treatment with this Columbia Pictures production scripted by The West Wing's Aaron Sorkin. The film will focus on Harvard student Mark Zuckerberg's ladder to the top after creating one of the biggest Internet sensations.



Paranormal Activity 2

Friday 4:30 7:30 10:00
Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 10:00
Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Monday & Tuesday 4:30 7:30
Wednesday 4:30 7:30 10:00
Thursday 1:30 4:30 7:30

Katie Featherston, Micah Sloat

Thriller • Rated R

Red

Friday 4:15 7:15 9:50
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:50
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Monday & Tuesday 4:15 7:15
Wednesday 4:15 7:15 9:50
Thursday 1:15 4:15 7:15

Bruce Willis, Morgan Freeman

Thriller, Action • Rated PG 13



Easy A

Friday 4:10 7:10 9:45
Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:45
Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10
Monday & Tuesday 4:10 7:10
Wednesday 4:10 7:10 9:45
Thursday 1:10 4:10 7:10

Emma Stone, Penn Badgley

Comedy • Rated PG 13

Nanny McPhee Returns

Friday 4:05 7:05 9:35
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:35
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Monday & Tuesday 4:05 7:05
Wednesday 4:05 7:05 9:35
Thursday 1:05 4:05 7:05

Emma Thompson, Maggie Gyllenhaal

Comedy • Rated PG 13

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Pamela Anderson in Israel to promote fur ban

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)—Former “Baywatch” star Pamela Anderson said Sunday she will try her powers of seduction while in Israel on an unlikely audience—ultra-Orthodox Jewish lawmakers.

Anderson, an honorary director of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, is in Israel to participate in the local version of “Dancing with the Stars.”

Her work for animals “has been really inspiring,” she said. “I feel like I have actually done something.”

An anti-fur bill has been put on hold in Israel over concerns by ultra-Orthodox leaders that it could impact production of the characteristic fur hats worn by some men from Hassidic sects on holidays and other festive occasions.

To combat growing secularization of Jews to European society in the 18th century, Hassidic



In this Oct. 24, 2010 file photo, Canadian-born actress Pamela Anderson is seen during a photocall in London.

NYC mayor's daughter, 27, hurt in equestrian event

Thousands gather for funeral of Romanian poet

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP)—Thousands of Romanians gathered Sunday for the funeral of Adrian Paunescu, one of the country’s most famous poets whose verse struck a chord despite odes he wrote to late Communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

Paunescu died Friday of multiple organ failure aged 67, and the nation immediately went into mourning for the larger-than-life poet. He was buried with military honors, as television stations covered the hours-long ceremony live.

“God loved the Romanian people so much that he gave us this volcano of a man ... who was born for poetry that flowed from his brilliant mind,” said Cornelius Vadim Tudor, a nationalist politician, writer and friend of Paunescu.

Carrying flowers and beeswax candles, thousands of mourners gathered hours ahead of his funeral at the Bellu Cemetery in south Bucharest where he was buried next to another famous Romanian man of letters, the 19th-century poet Mihai Eminescu.

Paunescu was born in Moldova when that country was part of the Soviet Union and moved to Romania when he was a child. Many Moldovans came to his funeral.

Romanians chose not to dwell on the odes Paunescu wrote about Ceausescu, the late Romanian dictator who was executed during the bloody anti-communist revolt in 1989, when more than 1,000 people were killed.

Mourners recalled his poetry, acts of generosity toward ordinary people, and Flacara, the liveliest magazine under communism when censorship was strict.

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP)—The 27-year-old daughter of New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg has suffered a concussion and fractured spine after taking a tumble from her horse during an upstate equestrian sporting tournament.

A publicist for Georgina

Bloomberg said she would undergo an in-depth examination Monday. Kenneth Kraus said Bloomberg was competing Friday in the Gambler’s Choice competition at the Syracuse Invitational Sporthorse Tournament when her “saddle unexpectedly came loose and slipped.” She was knocked

unconscious by the fall.

Kraus said she was “resting comfortably” Sunday. The equestrian was ranked by Forbes magazine as among the most “intriguing billionaire heiresses.”

A spokesman for the mayor said Bloomberg is “very concerned, as any father would be.”

The Socialite Network: UK’s Queen joins Facebook

LONDON (AP)—Queen Elizabeth II is now on Facebook—but she’s not going to be your friend.

Britain’s queen has launched a series of official pages offering the website’s 500 million users daily updates on her engagements, the royal household said Sunday.

The 84-year-old British monarch will be featured in videos, photos and news items on the site, which will be available starting Monday, alongside other members of the country’s royal family, including Princes William and Harry.

Users will be able leave messages or comments for Buckingham Palace on the site and find details of royal events close to their homes.

However, because the pages will be corporate—and not a personal account—people won’t be able to request to become friends with the queen.

A royal official said the queen



Britain’s Queen Elizabeth II, waves to well-wishers, during a visit to Maldon, England, Thursday Oct. 28, 2010.

had personally approved the plan, but acknowledged she has not actually used the site herself.

“The decision went right up to the queen,” said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to discuss the plan. “If you are

going to have an online presence in 2010, you just have to be on Facebook.”

The Facebook page is the queen’s latest social media venture—the royal family already have an account on the Flickr photography website, joined Twitter in 2009 and set up a video channel on YouTube in 2007.

Buckingham Palace set up its own website in 1997, which now allows people to apply for palace jobs online, track the royal family via Google Maps or read details in a section devoted to the queen’s prized corgi dogs.

Her Facebook site will include Britain’s court circular, the official daily record of the royal family’s engagements. It lists all royal diary appointments from the previous day and was created by George III in 1803, reportedly after he became frustrated with inaccurate newspaper reports.

Garth Brooks’ benefit concert sells out—9 times

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Garth Brooks is going to be very busy in December.

Brooks sold more than 140,000 tickets Saturday morning and his benefit concert for Nashville flood relief ballooned from one show to nine.

“It’s great to be a part of the healing,” Brooks said in a news release.

The release says the day’s sales set a record for tickets sold in Tennessee, besting a concert held by Michael Jack-

son at Neyland Stadium in Knoxville that drew more than 72,000 fans.

Brooks initially retired about a decade ago to spend more time with his family, but demand for the best-selling solo artist in U.S. history remains high. The 48-year-old musician came out of retirement late last year, announcing a series of shows at the Wynn Resort in Las Vegas that quickly sold out.

The benefit concerts are his only arena shows this year and

will include his wife, Trisha Yearwood, his full band and unnamed guests.

He’ll now play six shows in nine days from Dec. 16-22 with two shows on Dec. 16, 21 and 22. Tickets were \$25 apiece and he raised \$3.5 million for The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee.

May’s flood caused more than \$2 billion in damage in Nashville alone and 22 people were killed by flooding in middle and west Tennessee.

Too many texting teens do dumb things on smart phones

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I read your advice to “Getting Grief in Grants Pass, Ore.” (Sept. 11), whose father was reading her cell phone messages. You called his supervision “heavy-handed” and suggested she discuss it with him. While I applaud your suggestion to have a talk with her father, please reconsider the characterization that he was heavy-handed.

As a parent and high school assistant principal, I have seen too often the dangers of “sexting” and other illicit communications. Today’s smart phone tells us all sorts of things that we as parents need to know. It also has connections to social networking and applications that allow teenagers to blindly send their phone numbers to anonymous users and have conversations.

The world has changed with this technology, and the attention we pay as parents must change with it. I strongly urge the parents at my school to check their children’s phones and computers regularly. I suggest to parents to start doing it when their children are young and explain that it is part of their job as a parent.

DAVE MILLER, NEW YORK

DEAR DAVE: Thank you for writing and reminding me that kids today face many challenges that had never been an issue for them in past generations. Read on:



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: The number of teens and children who engage in inappropriate sexting and texting is shocking. These behaviors can be evidence of sexual exploitation, harassment, bullying and teen dating violence. The results of this teenage behavior can be devastating and have lifetime consequences.

Kids sometimes are afraid to go to parents or other responsible adults to seek help when they need it; often kids may not even know they are in trouble or exposing themselves to danger by their behavior. How long do you think it takes a “sex” between a girl and her boyfriend to make it to a child porn website?

A cell phone is a computer, and parents are responsible for ensuring the safety of their children and protecting them from predators and others who might harm them.

If “Grief” is not engaging in inappropriate behavior, she shouldn’t be embarrassed if her parents read the text messages. Abby, please use your column to help educate children, teens and their parents that a text/sext lasts a lifetime.

PATRICIA DAILEY LEWIS, DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL, DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DEAR ABBY: As a crime prevention officer, I regularly encourage parents to check a child’s cell phone for bullying and sexting, most of which a child won’t share with a parent. Especially if the child is the one who is using the phone to bully others, she certainly won’t share her pictures with her parents.

Most children are unaware that state laws have not changed, and children who send pornographic pictures of themselves to others can be charged with distributing child pornography and may have to register as a sexual predator for the rest of their lives. Kudos to “Grief’s” father for protecting his child not only from herself, but ensuring she is not hurting others!

CHILD ADVOCATE IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR ABBY: Once young people enter the work force, their e-mail, use of company phones and profiles on social sites will be monitored by their employers. There are consequences for living in a digital world, and our young people need to understand that.

I do not agree with her father telling her if she doesn’t want him to see something, she should delete it. Please don’t encourage children to lie. It won’t lead to anything good down the road. For young men and women who think this is a good idea, remember that nothing deleted is ever truly gone—it can be retrieved.

Whether it’s online, on a computer or a cell phone, act with decorum, use common sense, and you’ll never need to worry about getting in trouble for your behavior.

MOTHER OF TEENS IN SHARON, PA.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

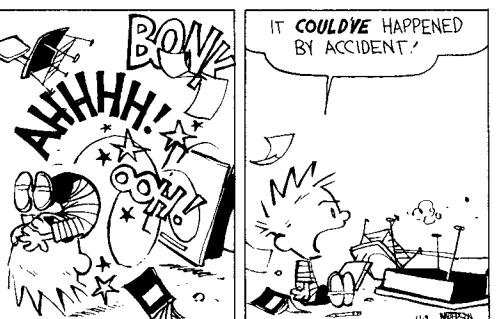
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Pastimes

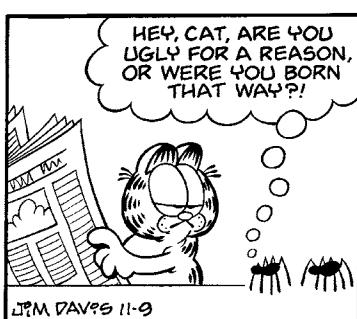
Calvin and Hobbes



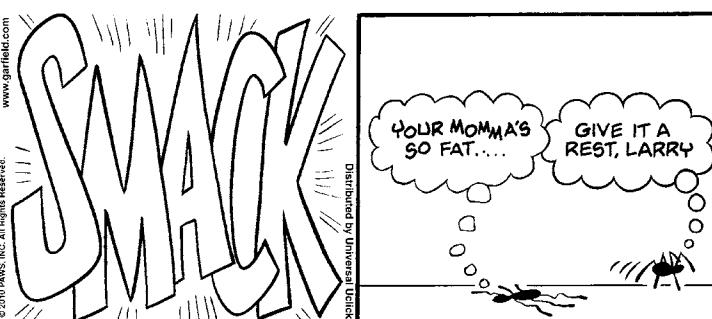
By Bill Waterson



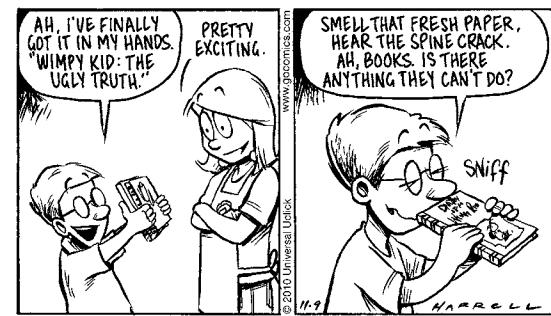
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By Jim Davis



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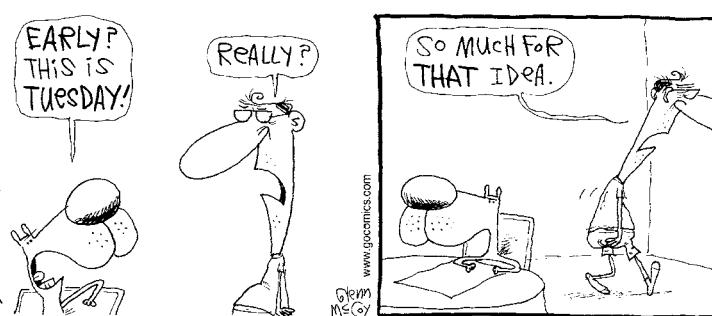
By Bryan Basset



The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

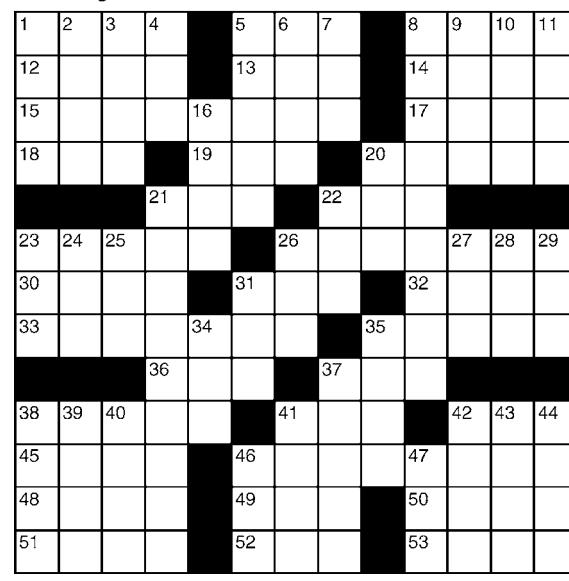


CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

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13	Anti-	41	5	8	bit
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14	Busy with	45	work	10	of
Branch	46	Virus that	11	Sicilian	4-Down
15	Imaginary	objects	12	spouter	29
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17	Weaponry	stands	14	United	31
18	Donkey	medica-	15	Wrestling	Wrestling
19	Allow	tion	16	nations	surface
20	English	48	20	Barrister's	34
composition	49	Stead	34	Spring	month
21	Pleasure	50	11	Staffer	35
22	PC	Favorite	Optimistic	37	Profundity
peripheral	51	Christmas	16	38	38
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31	Chinese	AGOG VOL NUDE		Touch	41
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32	Zilch	HELOT YETI		Hawaiian	44
33	Kodak	ROB DIADEM		dance	Census
inventor	George	DODGERS SNIPE		45	statistics
		ALAIA AIM ARIA		46	Resort
		SERAC SUBJECT		47	"Catcher
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		HALO VET EURO			
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		SEWN DOE ENS			

Yesterday's answer 11-9



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5951 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Nick Lachey, 37; Eric Dane, 38; Susan Tedeschi, 40; Lou Ferrigno, 59

Happy Birthday: You may have to backtrack to set a few things straight before moving on. It's important to see things clearly so you don't waste time on someone or something that won't pay off in the end. Listen to good advice. Now is the time for change, so get moving before you feel pressured. Your numbers are 3, 7, 16, 26, 35, 38, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Respond only after you have thought about the consequences. Your emotions will tempt you to be abrupt and caustic. Look beyond what others are doing or saying and concentrate on getting ahead personally, professionally and financially. ☀️☀️

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Pull out every imaginable idea, plan or goal and revisit the possibilities. Short trips, serious discussions and pouring your heart out to whomever you need on board are all in order. A personal issue will surface. ☀️☀️☀️

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Someone lacking your vision may stifle your plans. Work closely with anyone who needs proof—coaxing with a few facts and figures thrown into the equation. Uncertainty regarding the help you get may lead to scaling down your initial start-up plans. ☀️☀️

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't let your personal life stand in the way of what needs to be done. A partnership can

work in your favor but only if you specify who will be responsible for what. You have more control over the outcome than you realize. ☀️☀️

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Kick back and enjoy yourself. You need to show the people you work with your fun side. You'll be surprised how much easier it will be to get what you want professionally if you play as hard as you work. ☀️☀️

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Someone from your past may disrupt your home life. Review the consequences you'll face if you get involved in something that you ended a long time ago. Focus more on what you have and consider if you want to hold on to it. ☀️

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Roll the dice or play your hand. There may be a risk but you don't really have a choice. It's better to make a move than to wait for someone to corner you or take advantage of you. Welcome an experienced point of view. ☀️☀️

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Cover all the bases. Change is good but, if you fear failure, you are likely to lose. Courage and confidence will be the key requirements if you want to progress. If it's worthwhile, it's worth working for. ☀️☀️

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may be jumpy but it's good to be on edge when you are trying to accomplish something big. Don't worry if someone backs out or changes plans midway. In the end, you will control more and get what you want. ☀️☀️

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGYCOPRIGHT 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Emotions will be close to the surface and can cause you to make a mistake because of demands from friends, family or your lover. Make whatever concessions you can but don't compromise to a point that makes you want to walk away. ☀️☀️

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can try to talk your way out of something but a commitment is expected if you intend to move ahead with the support that's been offered. Love is in the stars but you can no longer sit on the fence. ☀️☀️

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Anger is not the way to get what you want but taking action and showing what you have to offer is. Avoid any sort of discrepancy. Socialize with peers and colleagues and you will get your way. ☀️☀️

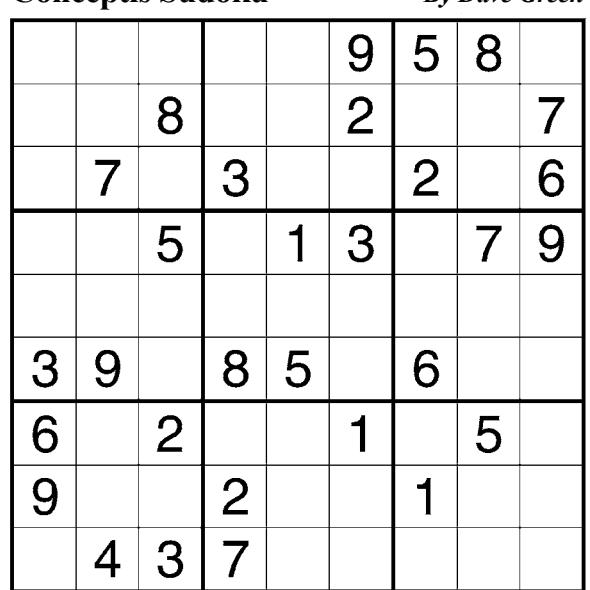
Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, energetic and resourceful. You are intuitive, charming, carefree and a team player.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

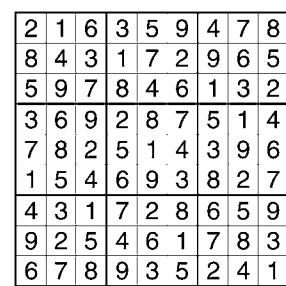
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET
HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MARZIPAN

Solution: 6 letters

F	E	F	I	L	L	E	D	R	S	S	E	D	R	
N	G	R	M	T	D	S	D	E	R	O	L	O	C	A
E	G	C	A	I	H	E	W	S	U	F	A	T	U	T
T	S	S	R	A	X	D	R	E	T	T	M	S	T	R
A	T	T	P	U	S	T	E	H	U	I	I	E	A	
E	M	E	A	L	S	E	U	T	D	S	N	O	L	T
T	S	S	P	E	G	H	S	R	N	W	A	M	S	M
A	I	W	U	T	R	N	E	O	E	I	O	C	E	O
L	G	E	R	G	E	T	I	D	R	N	A	P	C	L
O	N	E	Y	T	A	S	D	C	D	E	P	P	I	D
C	I	T	S	W	A	R	O	S	I	C	V	S	L	E
O	P	A	E	C	S	N	O	B	B	I	R	E	S	D
H	P	S	©	A	K	E	G	D	E	D	A	E	N	K
C	O	O	K	I	E	S	Q	U	R	E	S	A	T	
R	T	N	A	D	N	O	F	L	W	O	R	E	S	M

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Yesterday's Answer: Show Chair

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Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. 670-288-2945

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF) FCD GU
APPOINTMENT OF MARIANA O.) Civil Action
OLAITMAN AS GUARDIAN OF) No. 10-0540
THE ESTATE OF DONOVAN)
JUDE O. OLAITMAN)
Minor Child) NOTICE OF
) HEARING
by)
MARIANA O. OLAITMAN) Petitioner.
)
)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardian for the estate of the above-named minor child by Mariana O. Olaitman, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Superior Court before the Honorable Kenneth L. Govendo on the 22nd day of November, 2010 at 1:30 PM or as soon as thereafter.

/s/ Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

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Vick, Jackson led Eagles over Colts



PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Michael Vick shared a long embrace with offensive coordinator Marty Mornhinweg after coming back from a month off to lead the Philadelphia Eagles to a big win.

When Peyton Manning is on the other side, it's no ordinary game.

Vick threw for 218 yards and one touchdown, and ran for 74 yards and a score in the Eagles' 26-24 victory over the Indianapolis Colts on Sunday.

"This game was more emotional because we knew how tough it was going to be to win this game," Vick said. "It took two weeks of hard work, guys working extra hard, watching film and doing whatever it takes. To win this game was very gratifying."

The Eagles (5-3) are 12-0 after a bye since Andy Reid became coach in 1999. They hadn't beaten Manning in three previous tries.

While Philadelphia rested last week, the Colts (5-3) had to make a quick turnaround after beating Houston on Monday night. It certainly seemed the Eagles were the fresher team, especially early.

"They got off to a great start against us," Colts coach Jim Caldwell said. "You got to give them credit. They hung in there and really did a nice job."

The depleted Colts lost wide receiver Austin Collie to a concussion after a hard—and illegal—hit by Kurt Coleman forced him to leave on a stretcher in the second quarter.

Collie lay on the ground for several minutes as the crowd fell silent. Soon afterward, the announcement came he had movement and was alert.

"I think he'll recover quickly," Caldwell said.

Philadelphia's DeSean Jackson had 109 yards receiving and one touchdown in his first game back after a vicious hit gave him a concussion on Oct. 17.

Playing his first game since injured rib cartilage forced him out on Oct. 3, Vick picked up where he left off when he was NFC offensive player of the month in September. He completed 17 of 29 passes, and scrambled for some key first downs.

"We knew we had to keep Peyton off the field," Vick said.

Manning threw for 287 yards, one TD and two interceptions. The four-time NFL MVP wasn't his usual self, misfiring on several passes.

"They have good players, good cover guys," Manning said. "Everything was contested. We had a tough time finding a rhythm in the second half."

Indy played without cornerback Jerraud Powers, running backs Joseph Addai and Mike Hart, tight ends Dallas Clark

LeSean McCoy ran for 95 yards for the Eagles, who hadn't beaten the Colts since Bubby Brister led them to a win in 1993.

The Eagles scored on their first four possessions, but settled for



Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Michael Vick passes in the first half of an NFL football game against the Indianapolis Colts, Sunday, Nov. 7, 2010, in Philadelphia.

and Brody Eldridge and wide receiver Anthony Gonzalez.

The Eagles went ahead 19-17 when David Akers kicked his fourth straight field goal midway through the third quarter.

On their next possession, a holding penalty on Winston Justice negated a 56-yard TD pass from Vick to Brent Celek. While Celek ran down the sideline, Indy's Robert Mathis stood at the spot where he was held and kept waving everyone back.

But Vick kept the drive going with a 22-yard pass to Jeremy Maclin on second-and-26, and a 32-yard run on the next play. A few plays later, Vick sneaked in from the 1 to give Philadelphia a 26-17 lead.

The Colts cut it to 26-24 on Javarris James' 1-yard TD run with 1:50 left. The Eagles appeared to have thwarted Indy's drive when Manning got sacked and fumbled on fourth-and-18, but a penalty on Trent Cole for slapping Manning in the helmet as he reached for the ball gave the Colts a first down.

With three timeouts left, the Colts didn't try an onside kick. Jackson ran for 11 and 6 yards on consecutive end-arounds, but the Eagles punted it away.

Manning got the ball at Indy's 26 with no timeouts left and 40 seconds remaining. But Asante Samuel made his second interception to ice it.

LeSean McCoy ran for 95 yards for the Eagles, who hadn't beaten the Colts since Bubby Brister led them to a win in 1993.

The Eagles scored on their first four possessions, but settled for

three field goals after failing to convert inside the 10 three times.

That allowed the Colts to take a 17-16 halftime lead. Down 13-0,

Manning led Indianapolis on a long drive, capping it off with a 3-yard TD toss to Jacob Tamme.

Vick made two big plays on third down during the following drive that resulted in Akers' 31-yarder. Vick ran 24 yards on third-and-9, and hit Jason Avant for a 34-yard gain to the Colts 6 on third-and-7.

Vick had said he would play more cautiously, but he didn't shy away from hits on many of his scrambles.

"It's going to be tough to hold him back," Reid said. "He did run out of bounds once. I was fired up about that."

Collie got hurt on the Colts' next drive. Unnecessary roughness was called on Quintin Mikell on the play but should've been on Coleman because he delivered the hit to Collie's helmet.

Manning threw a 33-yard pass to Blair White on the next play and a facemask call on Mikell put the ball at the 6. James ran in from the 6 to cut it to 16-14.

After Philadelphia went three-and-out the Colts went ahead on Adam Vinatieri's 37-yard field goal before the half.

The Eagles scored a touchdown on their opening possession for the fourth time in eight games. McCoy broke loose for a 62-yard run on the first play from scrimmage. Vick tossed a 9-yard touchdown pass to Jackson.

The Eagles quickly got the ball back when Manning badly overthrew his target and Samuel

made an easy interception. Samuel returned it 33 yards to the Colts 9, but Philadelphia settled for a 22-yarder to make it 10-0.

Browns 34, Patriots 14

At Cleveland, rookie quarterback Colt McCoy scrambled for a touchdown, and Peyton Hillis ran for a career-high 184 yards and two scores as Cleveland

pounded New England.

Two weeks after stunning New Orleans, the Browns (3-5) pulled off another shocker. Well rested after their bye week, they ended New England's five-game winning streak and did it decisively, outplaying one of the NFL's top teams for all 60 minutes.

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made an easy interception. Samuel returned it 33 yards to the Colts 9, but Philadelphia settled for a 22-yarder to make it 10-0.

Jets 23, Lions 20 OT

At Detroit, Mark Sanchez threw a 52-yard pass to Santonio Holmes to set up Nick Folk's game-winning 30-yard field goal 2:18 into overtime.

Sanchez scored on a quarterback sneak with 2:46 left in regulation and led a nine-play drive that set up Folk's 36-yard kick to send the game into OT.

Matthew Stafford threw two touchdown passes and ran for a score to give Detroit a 10-point lead before re-injuring his right shoulder and leaving the game with 5:19 left.

Eagles 26, Colts 24

At Philadelphia, Michael Vick threw for 218 yards and one touchdown, ran for 74 yards and a score, as Philadelphia beat Peyton Manning and Indiana.

The Eagles (5-3) are 12-0 after a bye since Andy Reid became coach in 1999. They hadn't beaten Manning in three previous tries.

Rams 34, Panthers 3

At Charlotte, North Carolina, Drew Brees threw for 253 yards and two touchdowns, Jabari Greer returned an interception for a touchdown and New Orleans became the latest team to shut down Carolina's NFL worst offense.

The Saints (6-3) overcame the loss of tight end Jeremy Shockey to a rib injury after his touchdown catch to keep pace in the competitive NFC South. Rookie tight end Jimmy Graham caught his first NFL TD in Shockey's absence and the Saints held Carolina to 195 yards.

Giants 41, Seahawks 7

At Seattle, Eli Manning threw for three first-half touchdowns, and Ahmad Bradshaw added a pair of rushing touchdowns as the Giants downed Seattle.

Manning and the Giants (6-2) jumped to a 35-0 halftime lead, overwhelming the banged up Seahawks and staking claim as maybe the best team in the NFC halfway through the season.

Bears 22, Bills 19

At Toronto, Jay Cutler threw two touchdown passes, including one to Earl Bennett late in the fourth quarter, to give Chicago a win and keep Buffalo winless.

Chester Taylor also scored on a 1-yard plunge for the Bears (5-3), who came out of their off week to end a two-game skid. Tim Jennings' interception came early in the fourth quarter, and with Chicago trailing 19-14.

Falcons 27, Buccaneers 21

At Atlanta, Michael Turner scored two early touchdowns and Atlanta held off Tampa Bay with a gutsy goal-line stand to take over sole possession of first place in the NFC South.

Turner rushed 24 times for 107 yards, including scoring plays of 2 and 10 yards that gave the Falcons (6-2) an early 14-0 lead. Atlanta was hanging on at the end against the Buccaneers (5-3), whose coach, Raheem Morris, had proclaimed his team the best in the NFC.

Chargers 29, Texans 23

At Houston, Philip Rivers threw four touchdown passes against the NFL's worst pass defense as San Diego earned its first road win of the season.

Rivers completed 17 of 23 passes for 295 yards. He used eight different receivers in the absence of tight end Antonio Gates, who was out with a right foot injury.

Ravens 26, Dolphins 10

At Baltimore, Billy Cundiff made four field goals as Baltimore cranked up the defense after halftime to hand Miami its first road loss.

Baltimore (6-2) won its seventh straight at home behind Cundiff and a defense that blanked Miami (4-4) in the second half. Cundiff connected from 26, 39, 20, 24 yards, and the Ravens held the Dolphins to 24 yards rushing over the final 30 minutes.

Dolphins quarterback Chad Henne went 22 for 34 for 231 yards and three interceptions.

Molinari holds steady to win HSBC Champions



SHANGHAI
(AP)—The experience of losing to one No. 1 player in the world helped Francesco Molinari beat another.

When last seen on a world stage, Molinari was helpless against Tiger Woods in Ryder Cup singles, when the former world No. 1 steamrolled the Italian for an easy victory at Celtic Manor.

One month later at the HSBC Champions, Molinari turned in a world-class performance against the new No. 1.

In an exquisite duel with Lee Westwood that came down to the last putt, Molinari played bogey-free Sunday at Sheshan International for a 5-under 67, giving him a one-shot victory and a World Golf Championship title.

"It's been four fantastic days, and especially the last two playing head-to-head with Lee was really tough," Molinari said. "I think the experience of playing with Tiger in the Ryder Cup definitely helped me in the last couple of days, because when you are playing against No. 1 in the world, it is not easy to always stick to the game plan and do your game."

Woods was 7 under over the last seven holes in that Ryder Cup match against Molinari. He wasn't even close to that level at the HSBC Champions, where even a 68 on the final day still put him 12 shots behind in a tie for sixth.

He ended his PGA Tour season without a win for the first time in his career.

"That's just the way it goes,"

Woods said. "It's not like I didn't try. It just didn't happen this year. But I'm pleased with the progress I've made of late. Things are building and heading in the right direction, which is good."

Richie Ramsay of Scotland closed with a 71 and tied for third with Luke Donald of England, who faltered to a 73. For Ramsay, it was enough to secure a spot in the Race to Dubai finale at the end of the month.

Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland had a 67 for a European sweep of the top five spots.

But this was Molinari's show. No one had a lower score in three of the four rounds, and he finished at 19-under 269.

It spoiled the debut of Westwood atop the world ranking, yet the 37-year-old Englishman could find little to regret except for a few bad breaks down the stretch and one poor flop shot at the worst time.

After making a 10-foot par on the 15th to stay one shot behind, Westwood hit his 3-wood on the 288-yard 16th and thought he was in perfect shape until his tee shot hit the back of a bunker and bounced forward, leaving him in an awkward spot with a pot bunker between him and the flag. His flop shot was fat and didn't clear the bunker, while Molinari hit lob wedge to 4 feet for birdie and a two-shot lead.

Still two shots behind playing the par-5 18th—this after making a 15-foot par save—Westwood hit 5-iron to the green and turned in disbelief when the ball crawled up a slope and didn't come back down toward the pin.

Instead, he had a 25-foot eagle putt to force a playoff, but the ball stayed left of the hole.

"I expected it to be running



Francesco Molinari of Italy poses with his champion trophy during the award ceremony of the HSBC Champions golf tournament at the Shanghai Sheshan International Golf Club Sunday, Nov. 7, 2010 in Shanghai, China.

down, like 3 or 4 feet," Westwood said. "Just needed the breaks to win, and it didn't happen."

Even so, he put up a fight that was worthy of his ranking.

Westwood, coping with a calf injury all summer, was playing only his second stroke-play tournament in three months. He still managed to play without a bogey

on the weekend—he went the last 43 holes without dropping a shot—and his 67 in the final round put him at 18-under 270. It was good enough to beat the rest of the field by nine shots.

The golf was at such a high level that neither player in the final group made a bogey, and Molinari figured he was going to

have to make birdie on just about every hole to stay in front.

He only played it safe at the end, knowing Westwood would need an eagle to beat him. From the top tier of the 18th green, Molinari hit a beautiful lag, which he tapped in for par. Fireworks lit up the hazy sky over Sheshan International, and Mo-

linari's older brother, Edoardo, was among those behind the 18th green ready to celebrate.

Until this year, the European Tour had never had more than one Italian win a tournament. Now there have been three in the last two months, starting with Edoardo Molinari at the Johnnie Walker Championship, and most recently Matteo Manassero.

"I was on tour the last few years basically on my own as an Italian," Francesco Molinari said. "So it was very good to see them this year coming through. And obviously, when they won, I wanted to win, as well. It made me work a little bit harder because I wanted to contribute to the golden moment of Italian golf."

Molinari, who earned \$1.2 million, moved to No. 14 in the world ranking, three spots ahead of his brother.

Westwood was a runner-up for the fourth time this year—including the British Open and the Masters. This gave him a larger cushion in the battle for No. 1 in the world, although he still could lose it when he next plays the Dubai World Championship in three weeks.

PGA champion Martin Kaymer shot 71 and tied for 30th. Masters champion Phil Mickelson had a 73 and tied for 41st. They are playing next week in the Singapore Open.

Woods remains at No. 2 and heads Down Under to defend at the Australian Masters.

"It wasn't really about the rankings," Westwood said. "It was about trying to win this week. The rankings come as a consequence of playing well, and I'm playing well. I know I am. Today is just very typical of how I've played for the last two years."

streak. Turner started in place of Andre Iguodala, out with a strained right Achilles' tendon.

Suns 118, Hawks 114

At Atlanta, Jason Richardson scored 21 points and Steve Nash added 19 as Phoenix dealt Atlanta its first loss of the season.

Minnesota lost for the sixth time in seven games. Kevin Love led the Timberwolves with 16 points and 16 rebounds. Michael Beasley added 15 points.

There were four ties in the fourth quarter but the Hawks, who trailed by 18 in the third period, could not take the lead.

Nash, who had 15 assists, made four free throws in the final 7 seconds to protect the lead.

Joe Johnson had 34 points and Al Horford added 30—one shy of his career high—for Atlanta. Johnson and Horford each set season scoring highs.

76ers 106, Knicks 96

At New York, Elton Brand scored 20 points, and Lou Williams and Jrue Holiday each had 19 as Philadelphia beat New York.

Glen Davis had three foul line jumpers during a 15-6 push by the Celtics after their 22-point lead had been cut to 73-67 early in the fourth quarter.

Kevin Durant scored 34 points

and Russell Westbrook had 16 points and 10 assists to lead Oklahoma City, which played without third-leading scorer Jeff

Evan Turner, the No. 2 pick and last season's college player of the year, added 14 points and 10 rebounds in his first NBA start as the 76ers snapped the Knicks' two-game winning

Charlie Villanueva added 16 points and 10 rebounds off the bench for Detroit, while Tayshaun Prince scored 14.

Monta Ellis led Golden State with 24 points and Dorell Wright had 19.

Gasol's triple-double keeps Lakers unbeaten



LOS ANGELES
(AP)—Pau Gasol had 20 points, 14 rebounds and 10 assists while completing his fourth career triple-double by the third quarter, and the

Los Angeles Lakers easily improved to 7-0 for the fifth time in franchise history with a 121-96 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers on Sunday night.

Lamar Odom had 21 points and 12 rebounds, Kobe Bryant scored 12 points and Ron Artest played stringent defense on Portland star Brandon Roy during a smooth night of work for the Lakers, who led by 24 points in the first half and 29 down the stretch while out-rebounding the Blazers 49-25.

Andre Miller scored 20 points and Nicolas Batum added 17 for the Blazers, who lost for just the second time in their last six meetings with the Lakers.

Shannon Brown hit three 3-pointers while scoring 15

points for the Lakers, who also started 7-0 two years ago and in 2001-02, when they began their roll to their first threepeat under coach Phil Jackson. Los Angeles' only better starts were in 1987-88 (8-0) and 1997-98 (11-0).

Gasol clinched his first triple-double since Feb. 17, 2009, with an assist on Artest's basket with 3:10 left in the third quarter. With a dominant performance down low and on the perimeter, Gasol nearly hit the marks during Los Angeles' dominant first half alone, racking up 14 points, 11 rebounds—the same number as Portland's entire roster—and seven assists.

The Lakers are leaning heavily on the Spaniard while starting center Andrew Bynum is recovering from knee surgery, but a summer away from basketball left Gasol energized for the task.

Two nights after struggling to hold off Toronto while getting outrebounded by 18 boards, the Lakers expected their big

gest test of the young season from the Blazers, who were off to a 5-2 start. Portland has been consistently better during recent head-to-head matchups with Los Angeles, which hasn't won its season series with the Blazers since 2004-05.

But this one was no contest: The two-time defending champions improved to 5-0 at home with a comfortable lead throughout the final 3 1/2 quarters, moving the ball with veteran ease and holding the Blazers' top two scorers—Roy and LaMarcus Aldridge—to eight points apiece.

Rockets 120, Wolves 94

At Houston, Luis Scola of Argentina scored 24 points and Kevin Martin added 21 to help the Houston Rockets win their first game of the season with a rout of the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Yao Ming, playing under a strict time limit while recovering from foot surgery, had

13 points and four rebounds in 16 minutes. Shane Battier added 17 points for Houston, which lost its first five games. The Rockets lost their first 10 games in 1982-83.

Minnesota lost for the sixth time in seven games. Kevin Love led the Timberwolves with 16 points and 16 rebounds. Michael Beasley added 15 points.

Celtics 92, Thunder 83

At Oklahoma City, Ray Allen scored 19 points and Boston's bench helped prevent a big lead from slipping away in the fourth quarter as the Celtics opened a four-game road trip with a win over Oklahoma.

Glen Davis had three foul line jumpers during a 15-6 push by the Celtics after their 22-point lead had been cut to 73-67 early in the fourth quarter.

Kevin Durant scored 34 points and Russell Westbrook had 16 points and 10 assists to lead Oklahoma City, which played without third-leading scorer Jeff

Green. Green is day to day with a sprained left ankle.

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CNMI, Guam renew rivalry in Tan Holdings Tennis Classic

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



After a four-month break, tennis action returns to Saipan with the staging of the 2nd Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic later this month.

The second edition of the annual tournament will be played for two weekends and will have the CNMI and Guam players renewing their rivalry after squaring off in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau in August.

The CNMI team, composed of Jeff Race, Peter Loyola, Todd Montgomery, Bobby Cruz, Kana Aikawa, Jodel Fernandez, Lydia Tan, and Mayuko Arriola defeated Guam for the overall title to rule the Micro Games tennis competition in Palau for the second straight time. Some of the players of the Guam team are expected to play in the Tan Holdings Classic and face their old rivals.

Expected to lead Guam in the Tan Holdings Classic, which will run from Nov. 24 to 28, and Dec. 2 to 5, are defending men's open doubles champions Torgun Smith and Wendell Roden. Smith, who coached Guam in Palau, and Roden, who played in the singles and doubles events in the last Micro Games, won the men's open doubles crown last year after prevailing in the round-robin tournament by virtue of its highest percentage of sets won against sets loss.

Smith and Roden defeated Peter Loyola and Kirk Schuler, 6-3, 6-4, and



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A boys U10 player in action during the Inaugural Tan Holdings Tennis Classic at the American Memorial Park tennis court.

then had to forfeit the third set of their game against Ji Hoon Heo and Jeff Race to catch their flight back to Guam. The Guam tandem lost the first set, 6-4, but won the second, 6-3, to seal the title, as Heo and Race bowed to Schuler and Loyola in the earlier game.

innings pitched, but Maratita simply shut down the Manta Rays all game and finished the bottom of the seventh with a fitting 1-2-3 inning.

Saipan Southern pitchers had control issues all game and most of the damage they absorbed was self-inflicted.

and 52nd places with series scores of 998 (166.33 average) and 956 (159.33), respectively.

Raymond and Ruselle then teamed together and finished sixth place out of 28 teams in the men's doubles.

The Zapantas came out with a four-game double series score of 2,508 that averaged out to an even 209 per game.

The Black Hawks-Pink Dynamites resumed their rivalry last Saturday with the latter nearly sweeping the remaining four games to stun the tournament's pacesetter.

So Young Lee gave Pink Dynamites a good start with a 3-0 win over Annette Quiambao. Pink Dynamites' two other wins last Saturday were also via sweeps with Lee joining forces with Algenio in topping Quiambao and Oh Imbog and Omori blanking Brien. The Black Hawks' lone win last Saturday came from Bulaon, who shut out Dick Guintu, 3-0.

Orange Shuttle 8, Royale Blue 2

ue yet to be determined.

Bae will compete in the yearend event against the 10 early Ace winners and the future December titlist. Joining Bae in the club championship are Jun Yi Piao (January Ace), Saures (February), Nick Leon Guerrero (March), Carl Hocog (April), Xian Lai Cue (May), Jesse Seman (June), Olopai (July), Jess Wabol (August), Tigilau (September), and Satur (October).

U12 title, while Jaime Lai and Masahi Shinkawa claimed the men's 4.0 doubles crown.

Schuler, the tournament director for the second straight year, hopes to get more or the same number of participants from last year to this season.

"We had about 10 adults and 20 junior players last year and we're positive they will be back this year. Competition will be much better this year, as players had one year to improve their games," Schuler said.

The first week of the Tan Holdings Classic will feature competitions in the junior long course singles and doubles and adults mixed doubles. Deadline for submission of entries is set for Nov. 19, while draws will be posted by Nov. 22.

In the second week, the tournament will have contests in the junior short course singles and doubles and adult singles and doubles. Deadline for registration is Nov. 26 and draws will be available by Nov. 29.

Games will be played at the American Memorial Park tennis courts, Fiesta Resort & Spa, and Hyatt Regency Saipan.

This year's Tan Holdings Tennis Classic is supported by Gatorade, Take Care, Quality Distributors, Mobil, and Tan Siu Lin Foundation. Other sponsors are Aon Insurance, Continental Airlines, Docomo Pacific, IT&E, Shirley's Coffee Shop, Hertz Rent a Car, AMS Typhoon Shutters, Deloitte, First Hawaiian Bank, Pepsi, AMP, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and Pacific Islands Club.

AYUYUS

From Page 28

Duenas did a good job in relief for Saipan Southern and kept Kagman from reaching second base in his two

innings pitched, but Maratita simply shut down the Manta Rays all game and finished the bottom of the seventh with a fitting 1-2-3 inning.

Saipan Southern pitchers had control issues all game and most of the damage they absorbed was self-inflicted.

Maratita pitched a complete game and gave up one earned run off three hits and four walks. He batted 1-for-3 with a double, two runs, and a base on balls, while his teammate Tenorio batted 1-for-2 with two RBIs and two base on balls.

Individually, Raymond tallied a 1,240 series for a 206.67 average, while Ruselle managed a 1,268 series to mark an average of 211.33.

Park Mi-Su and Kim Jong-Hyun, of Daegu, won the event with a double series score of 2,805 that worked out to a 233.75 per-game average. The competitors bowled six games and dropped

the two lowest scores.

Other participating Saipan doubles teams included Omechelang and Manacop who finished 19th with a double series score of 2,181 and a 181.75 game-average; and Raphael and Soledad who came in 26th with a doubles series sum of 2,010 and a 167.50 average.

LUCKY

From Page 28

while the eldest of the Zapanta siblings, Ruselle, finished 42nd with 1,052 pinfalls and a 175.33 average. Percy Omechelang and Jorge Soleedad, meanwhile, came in 50th place

In the second pairing over the weekend, the Orange Shuttle Masters whipped Royale Blue, 8-2.

The Shuttle Masters got off to a strong start, winning five of the six games last Friday. They won four of the five doubles games and Merlie Tolentino added a singles victory after prevailing over Jaja Samonte, 2-1.

Then last Saturday, the Shuttle Masters went 3-for-4, taking two doubles games and one singles.

After the Friday and Saturday Games, the Shuttle Masters improved their record to 64 won sets, the fourth best in the field. Royale Blue has gained 49 won sets for sixth place.

PINK

From Page 28

Villaflor shut out Joey Algenio and Elma Labuson, 3-0, while the duos of Angie Ito and Rey Bulaon and Edwin Montoya and Alvin Alvarez also prevailed in their respective doubles matches.

The Pink Dynamites' three wins last Friday were courtesy of Toshiko Obata and Jerry Hibi. The two teamed up in taking home a doubles victory against Montoya and Merly Savellano. Toshiko then beat Villaflor in the singles event, while Hibi partnered with Kanata Omori in downing Montoya and Rick Brien.

BAE

From Page 28

foi (80), Tom Tebuteb (80), and Asterio Tawanpiy (82).

Bae now qualifies for the 2010 RGA Club Championship, where the Placido M. Tagabuel Memorial Cup will be at stake. The club championship will be played on Dec. 18 and 19 with the ven-

Kosam tops December qualifier

Meanwhile, RGA president Jordon Kosam moved one step closer from clinching the December Ace and earning a ticket to the club championship after ruling the December qualifying tournament.

The 12-handicapper Kosam carded a net 71 after drilling a 44 on the front and 39 on the back to beat 12 other

RGA members. If Kosam's net 71 is unbeaten in the Nov. 13 tournament, he gets to keep the December Ace.

This Saturday's December Ace tournament will be held at the Coral Ocean Point and check-in time is at 11am, while tee off is at 12pm.

For more information about RGA tournaments, contact Kosam at 483-4506, Stephens at 288-0005, or Saures 483-5506.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	6	1	.857	—
New York	3	3	.500	2 1/2
New Jersey	2	4	.333	3 1/2
Philadelphia	2	5	.286	4
Toronto	1	5	.167	4 1/2

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	6	1	.857	—
Orlando	4	1	.800	1
Miami	5	2	.714	1
Washington	1	4	.200	4
Charlotte	1	5	.167	4 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	3	3	.500	—
Chicago	2	3	.400	1/2
Indiana	2	3	.400	1/2
Detroit	2	5	.286	1 1/2
Milwaukee	2	5	.286	1 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New Orleans	6	0	1.000	—
San Antonio	4	1	.800	1 1/2
Dallas	3	2	.600	2 1/2
Memphis	3	4	.429	3 1/2
Houston	1	5	.167	5

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	4	2	.667	—
Portland	5	3	.625	—
Oklahoma City	3	3	.500	1
Utah	3	3	.500	1
Minnesota	1	6	.143	3 1/2

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	7	0	1.000	—
Golden State	4	2	.667	2 1/2
Phoenix	3	3	.500	3 1/2
Sacramento	3	3	.500	3 1/2
L.A. Clippers	1	6	.143	6

Yesterday's Games

Philadelphia 106, New York 96
Phoenix 118, Atlanta 114
Detroit

Ride 'Round Ridge Mountain Bike Race

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Kimiko Hasegawa smiles as she nears the finish line.



Melody Matson, right, and Amy Sletten cross the finish line together.



Gideon Borja leads a group of riders down Radar Station during the Ride 'Round Ridge Mountain Bike Race last Saturday.



Russ Quinn negotiates the coral road.



Joe Ngirabuuch, left, and Tyce Mister finished the race under the 1:23:00 mark.



Alexander Bateman is one of the only two U11 riders who joined the race. The other was Gideon Borja.



Kanae Quinn and other bikers pedaled down Radar Station.



Jazy Garcia raises his arm as he nears the finish line.



Bob Ferrer does a wheelie as he is about to complete the championship course.



Jake (34) and Jackie (35) Van Dam joined the shorter sport course.



**Molinari holds
steady to win
HSBC Champions**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Vick, Jackson
led Eagles
over Colts**

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28 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2010

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Ayuyus are MISO baseball champs

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Kagman High School Ayuyus won the 2010 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Baseball title after beating the Saipan Southern High School Manta Rays, 7-1, in last Saturday's championship game at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Kagman took an early lead in the finals and never looked back.

The Ayuyus built a 2-0 lead in the top of the first inning thanks to a two-RBI single by Eric Tenorio.

Peter Lieto and Juan Maratita came in to score for Kagman after reaching with a leadoff single and a walk. The Manta Rays did not answer in the bottom half.

Then in the top of the second, Kagman left runners stranded at second and third. In the bottom of the second inning, Saipan Southern loaded up the bases, but Ayuyus pitcher Juan Maratita bit down and escaped the inning unscathed.

Kagman's first three batters reached to start the third inning with the bases loaded, but their next three batters all struck out. After the first two batters reached base, the Manta Rays' Nokki Saralu was relieved on the mound by Kevin Villagomez.

Lucky 13 for Raymond in RP

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



Raymond Zapanta finished 13th in the men's singles of the 24th Annual Asian Intercity Bowling Championships held at the Pearl Bowling Center in Pasay City, Philippines last weekend.

Zapanta bowled a five-game series score of



The Kagman High School Ayuyus pose for a photo after winning the MISO Boys Baseball championship following a 7-1 win over the Saipan Southern High School Manta Rays last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

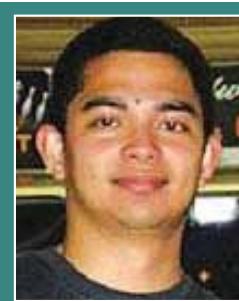
WALTER SUTHERLAND

1,219, which averaged out to 203.17 a game. Choi Suk-Byung, of Daegu, won the event with 1,366 pinfalls and a 227.67 average. In singles play, competitors bowled six games and dropped the lowest score.

Five other Saipan bowlers also competed in the men's singles competition. Zapanta's younger brother Raphael finished in 31st place with a score of 1,123 and a 187.17 average.

Veteran kegler Simon Manacop placed 36th with 1,090 and a 181.67 average,

See LUCKY on Page 26



Zapanta

Pink Dynamites bring down Black Hawks

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The Pink Dynamites handed the Black Hawks their first loss in the 4th Annual Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament.

The Pink Dynamites pulled off a 6-4 win over the Black Hawks in Week 3 of the competition held over the weekend at the REM Center in Gualo Rai. The victory enabled the team to keep pace with the latter. Pending last Sunday's results, the Pink Dynamites have earned 89 won sets, the



Marlene Peraja serves for Pink Dynamites, who stunned the Black Hawks, 6-4, during Week 3 of the Traders Insurance badminton tournament over the weekend at the REM Center in Gualo Rai.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Hawks seemed to meet their match, as the two teams split the first six games last Friday.

The tandem of Oh Imbog and Cristy

See PINK on Page 26

Bae takes RGA November Ace

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Bae Yong Man beat his own score to claim the Refaluw-asch Golf Association November Ace.

Bae, who carded a net 74 during the November Ace qualifying tournament last month on the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort to set the score to beat, returned to the Kagman facility last Sunday and played better, shooting a net 69 to seal the monthly plum.

The 2-handicapper got off to a good start, firing a 1-under par 35 on the front nine and making two birdies. In the last nine holes, Bae saved par for an even 36 and collected two more birdies for a gross 1-under par 71.

Besides winning the November Ace, Bae also topped the closest to the pin shots on the front and back nines to pocket \$50.

The Korean golfer won last Sunday's tournament against Joe Saures (net 70), Cue Xian Lai (71), Dwain Stephens (72), Tony Satur (73), Manny Mangarero (73), Apo Piao (75), Tars Olopai (77), Joe Wabol (78), Ray Tigilau (81), Tony Rogolli-

See BAE on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Bae Yong Man watches his shot on the No. 18 hole during a local tournament early this year.